

*Britannia Baconica:*

Or, The Natural

RARITIES

O F

*England, Scotland, & Wales.*

According as they are to be found in every  
S H I R E.

Historically related, according to the Pre-  
cepts of the Lord Bacon; Methodically dige-  
sted; and the Causes of many of them  
Philosophically attempted,

WITH

Observations upon them, and Deductions  
from them, whereby divers Secrets in Nature  
are discovered, and somethings hitherto  
reckoned Prodigies, are said to confess  
the cause whence they proceed.

*Usefull for all ingenious men of what Profession or  
Quality soever.*

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By J. CHILDRET.

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*Res semper aliquid appetat novi. TERTIUS.*

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LONDON, Printed for the Author, and are to  
be sold by H.E. at the sign of the Greyhound in  
St. Pauls Church-yard, 1661.







*To the Right Honourable, my  
most Noble Lord and Master, HENRY  
Somerſet Lord HERBERT, &c.*

It may please your Lordſhip,

**T**he Calling I have entred  
into, and the capacity  
wherein I have the honor  
to ſerve your Lordſhip,  
wil ( I fear ) offend the weak ten-  
derneſſe of ſome, who think theſe  
deep ſearches into reaſon, miſ-be-  
coming a Preacher of Faith, and the  
contemplation of the works of Na-  
ture very impedimentall ( if not de-  
ſtructive ) to the work of Grace ;  
And give them occaſion to cenſure  
me for dealing to far with Philoſo-

## The Epistle

phy. Yet somewhat I have to plead in excuse of my self; supposing what I do, to be a crime: And more I have to plead in defence of my self, that what I do is no crime at all. The smallness of the work, together with its being written, before I put my hand to the plough, is enough to excuse me, and extenuate the crime; were it indeed, what it is onely supposed to be. But seeing the fortress is defensible, it can be held for no less then cowardice to capitulate. It would not a little disparage a good cause to seek to excuse that, which may be justified; especially since it hath so learned and solid a Lawyer, as the Lord Chancellor Bacon to plead in its behalfe. *Philosophia Naturalis* (saith that eloquent Wit) *Post Verbum Dei, certissima Superstitionis Medicina est; eademq; probatissimum fidei alimentum*

Nov. Organ.  
l. I. Aph. 89.

Dedicatory.

alimentum. Itaque merito Religioni do-  
natur, tanquam fidissima ancilla: cum  
altera Voluntatem Dei, altera Potesta-  
tem manifestet. Neque enim erravit ille  
qui dixit, Erratis, nescientes <sup>Mat. 22, 29</sup>  
Scripturas, & Potestatem  
Dei; informationem de Voluntate, &  
meditationem de Potestate, next in order  
dno commiscens, & copulans! Natio-  
nal Philosophy, next to Gods Word, is  
the most Sovereign Antidote to expell  
the poison of Superstition; and not only  
so, but also the most approved food to  
nourish Faith. And therefore well may  
she be given to Religion as her most  
faithful handmaid: seeing the one shew  
us the Will of God, and the other his Po-  
wer. Nor was he out that said, Ye do err,  
not knowing the Scriptures, nor the  
Power of God: joyning these two to-  
gether, Instruction touching the Will,  
and Meditation on the Power, as inse-  
parable, and equally necessary. Want

*The Epistle*

of Philosophy is indeed the Nurse of Superstition: whence the ignorant age, or Childhood of the World in which the Natural causes of Eclipses, Comets, Thunder, Earthquakes, and the like were not known, was the most Superstitious: As are also at this day the simple and most vulgar sort of men. Who (likethose others, that the same Noble Author mentions in the same Aphorisme)

*Ibidem* conjiciunt singula ad Manum, & Virgulam Divinam (quod Religionis, ut putant, maximè interfit) facilius posse referri: quod nihil aliud est quàm Deo per mendacium gratificari velle. They conceive (saith he) that without enquiring into the middle and inferiour causes, all effects may more easily be referred to the immediate act and finger of God, the supream cause, as conducing most of all to the interest of Religion; Which is as much, as to

## Dedicatory.

go about to flatter the God of Truth with a lye, and to make him, what hee is not, or would not be thought. All the treasure of the Earth is Gods, (who doubts it?) for *Domini est* plena *terra, & plenitudo ejus*. Yet when our Saviour in the Gospel saw the Emperors stamp upon the penny brought to him, he thought it no robbery, nor injury to his Father, to say: *Reddite quæ Cesaris sunt, Cesari; & quæ Dei, Deo.* Give unto Cesar the things that are Cesars, and unto God, the things that are Gods; That is, that are Gods immediate own. Even so I confesse all effects and things, from the very foundation of the world to this present day, are the works of God. Yet because I find Natures superscription on many (if not most) of them, (though in some it be not so legible as in others) I hold it no impiety, or robbing God of his Glory,

*The Epistle*

to say : *Reddite nature, &c.* Give unto Nature, the works that are Natures : And unto God, those that are Gods. There being a great difference between the dividing of the Red Sea, and Jordan, by Moses and Joshua ; and the dividing of the River Ouse in Bedfordshire, related in this Book : And between the small Vermine that infested the Egyptians, and the *Phthiriasis* in the Philosophers finger. Which difference nevertheless without Philosophy we are not capable of knowing, but are apt to think all strange things Supernaturall and ( like those mistaken Philosophers, who think the Magnet hath its *Vis directrix*, from the Polestar ) to seek for that cause above, which we may find here below.

Besides, it is apparent by severall passages in the Book of God, that many of the Secretaries of the Holy Ghost

*Dedictory.*

Ghost (as Moses, David, Iſaiab, Amos, &c.) had either from their own parts & industry, the acquired: or from their inspirer the infused knowledge of naturall things: which they were not ashamed to make use of, even when they were about Gods great work. Nor could the extremity of *Jobs* miseries make him forget or lay by those Mathematicks, <sup>Job 31. 32</sup> which he had learnt in the time of his prosperity. But the example of *Solomon* puts the matter out of all scruple, whose divine Pen (so often serviceable to the Spirit of God) did more then divert it self with Philosophy, writing whole Volumes of the History of Nature. For we are told, that he spake (with the tongue of his Pen) of <sup>3 Kings 4. 33</sup> Trees, from the Cedar tree, that is in Lebanon, even unto the Hysop that springeth out of the Wall. As also of  
brass



## The Epistle

beasts, and of fowle, and of creeping things, and of fishes. And we are told it by him, who surely would not have commended it, had he disliked it.

Yet not but that (as want of Philosophy nourisheth Superstition, so) a care should be taken on the other side, least the abuse of Philosophy Col. 2. 8. cause Prophaneness and Atheisme, which lyes as much against God, as Superstition doth for him.

My Lord, though all this be truth, and nothing but reason, yet so petulant is prejudice, that it will not passe for such, unless besides its dead Advocate to defend it, it also have a living Patron to afford it the influence of his countenance & protection. Which favour I most humbly beg of your Lordship, both for my self and my book; but withal your  
pardon



*Dedictory.*

pardon for my being so bold to beg  
it : and for daring to prefix your  
Noble name to the contemptible en-  
deavours of

My very good Lord

*Your Honours most faithful,  
and ever devoted Servant  
and Chaplain*

J. CHILDREY.

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Deavour of  
I Noble name to the contemplation  
it and for doing to Justice your  
patron for my being to hold to beg

J Childrey

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## The Preface to the READER.

**T**HE designe of the ensuing Tract is to make it selfe useful & satisfactory to all sorts of men. For every man is either one of these three; One of the Vulgar, a Gentleman, or a Scholar: Or else (to avoid cavilling) he is both Gentleman and Schollar. And

First, this Book is intended for the use of the Vulgar, to teach them not to mis-believe or condemn for untruths all that seemes strange, and above their wit to give a reason for, who are the least able of all men to do it. For here they

## THE PREFACE

*they may read as strange things, ( and yet true ) as any of those reported, or written by Travellers; and reform their Judgements into so much Charity, as to think, that many Travellers do not make so much use of their Authority to lye, as they might. Not that I will undertake for the truth of all the Relations in Mandevile, and other credulous Writers; but so much may be said in their behalf, that all is not as the most is; that they have many Truths interserted with their fables and falsehoods, and some of them altogether as improbable as they. Here are no stories told you of what is to be seen at the other end of the world, but of things at home, in your own Native Countrey, at your own doors, easily examinable with little travel, less cost, and very little hazard. This book doth not shew you a Telescope, but a Mirror, it goes not about to put a delightful cheat*

to the READER.

cheat upon you, with objects at a great distance, but shews you yourselves.

Next I intend this Book for the service of the Gentry, that they may see England is not void of those things which they admire abroad in their travels. And that those ingenious Gentlemen whose occasions carry them into several Counties, or who are otherwise disposed to see the sports of Nature about them, may know by this Portable-book, in what parts of what Counties to find them. As Italy hath Virgils Grott, and the Sybils Cave by Putcoli; so England hath Okey-hole by Wells. We have Baix at Bath; the Alpes in North-Wales; Mount Baldus under the Picts Wall, the Spaw in Yorkshire; Euripus at Pool in Dorsetshire; Gabij in Lincolnshire; Asphaltites at Pitchford in Shropshire; Harpasa in Cornwall, the Pyramides

## The PREFACE

at Barrowbriggs, the Pearls of Persia on the shores of Westmorland; the Diamonds of India on St. Vincents Rock. And what is there worth wonder abroad in the world, whereof Nature hath not written a Copy in our Island? I would have those that know other Countreys so well, not to be strangers to their own, which is a compendium of all others.

Lastly and chiefly, My end is to serve the Commonwealth of Learning, which much wants such Histories as this to be written, and laid as a sure Foundation, whereon to build those Axiomes that make us true Schollars, and knowing men in Philosophy. I have as nearly (as I could) followed the Precepts of my Master, the Lord Bacon, and (by way of acknowledgement, from whom I received my first light into this way) have given my Book the Title of BRITANNIA BACONICA;  
and

to the READER.

and the rather, because it will serve for a part of several Histories in his Lordships Catalogue, at the end of his Novum Organon. I have not at all medled with matter of Antiquity, Pedigrees, or the like, those being copiously handled by several of our Countrey-men already; as the learned Cambden in his Britannia, Mr. Dugdale in his Description of Warwickshire, Mr. King in his Vale Royal, Mr. Lambert in his Perambulation, Mr. Philpot in his Villare Cantianum, and others. Only I ventured at the description of the Caves in Wiltshire, because I find it mentioned by none of our Antiquaries. I have here and there attempted to give the Causes of the Rarities I relate, having the example of my Lord B. for my authority, who in his Sylva Sylvarum hath the like excursions ever and anon into the Aetiology. And though I cannot but confess, that such



## The PREFACE

kind of writing is a little too bold yet, before the Histories of Art and Nature are compleatly done; yet possibly I may in some, hit upon the true Reason by chance; and unless men were more forward (then I see they are yet) in collecting such Histories, these kinds of confidences must be dispensed with. Indeed, had those men that have spent so much time & pains in writing voluminous Comments on Arist. but labored as diligently in writing Comments upon Nature, & (with that self denial and indifference, which becoms ingenuity in the dark) in trying to render a reason of such and such odd appearances in things, though some of them had been but false Positions; doubtless the Philosophical part of Learning would have been at a much better pass, and Inquisition a great deal more happy and thriving then it is at this day. The pest of Learning is, that men first fancy Opinions and Axioms



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to the READER.

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to themselves, and then by the help and art of Distinguishing, wrest and fit particular Instances and Observations to them. And this was the first original of Distinctions in the Schools, they being meerly invented (like the Astronomers Hypotheses) to salve the Phenomena of Aristotles oversights. And hence likewise the impregnability of Sophistry, which with its flanking distinctions will repel the strongest arguments, that would prove that snow is white.

There are many of the other Rarities, whose causes I could make bold with, and purpose so to do, so soon as I receive the censure of the Learned, on what is already done; and as they shall encourage or discourage me, I shall proceed or desist. For though I have much more to say, yet any good and faithful advice shall perswade me to hold my peace. I purpose also (if God

## THE PREFACE

grant me life, health, and leisure, to publish the Philosophical Rarities of the World, so far as they are communicated to us from Geographers and Travellers, having already made a considerable progress in the work. Which I believe will go a greater way in the advancement of Learning, then is yet imagined, and enable us to write more confident Comments on Nature, and to draw up such Articles against her, as if she be examined upon them, she will be forced to confess much more of her subtile wayes of cou-senage, then She hath yet told us of.

I have endeavoured to tell my tale as plainly as might be, both that I might be understood of all, and that I might not disfigure the face of Truth by dawning it over with the paint of Language. Renatus des Cartes hath told us, not without reason, how hard it is either to  
tell

to the READER.

tell what we have seen, or what we have heard, or to understand a related story exactly, according to the Relatours sence. So much difference there is between seeing and speaking, and between hearing and apprehending. And therefore in those rarities which I have not seen my self, I have followed my Authors close at the heels (word for word) it may be (and I have cause to fear it) with so much rigidness & nicety (with some triviall things here and there) in some places as will sound harsh and ungrateful to the Readers ear: yet not with more rigidness then for the reason above given is necessary. For such articles as we are to examine nature upon, had need to be so punctually true, that they cannot be too true. If there be but the least matter of doubt or uncertainty in them, she will easily evade them and fool us. And I am perswaded that divers of those relations I have given

## The PREFACE

you from the Authors I speak of, though they sincerely intended them for truth (and I have as sincerely translated and transcribed them) yet they are not truth to us by reason of our misunderstanding them: And that if the places and things themselves were visited, they would tell us as much, and appear different from what they are said to be. And peradventure by examining the particulars of them, we should find some one that would discover, or give a light into the cause of them; whereas some relations not being particular enough, leave us much unsatisfied, and make us think the causes of them much more strange and darke then they are. This I speak to provoke young Gentlemen to look and search into these pleasant Speculations more then heretofore they have done, and to visit each his neighbour curiosities, and to bestow upon the Manes of this Lord VERULAM that circumstance  
shall

to the READER,

*stantiall History of them, that is requisite for his great work, The interpretation of Nature.*

That I have one or two reflections on Astrology, I hope the Reader will pardon me. I may say with the learned *Clarencieux* that I have not been altogether unacquainted with those vanities. I cannot but profess, that I have an affection for the study ; & why I should not have so, I know not. The onely argument that I know against the lawfulness of Astrology, is that it is not true. Were it rectified, it might easily be justified. Now that is partly my aim in those reflections I mention : to lay a foundation for the rectifying it in the Doctrine of Ascendents, and for redeeming it from that obloquy which it hath for so many ages of the world been obnoxious to. That there is such a Science as Astrology,  
there

## THE PREFACE

there is no question to be made. The stars have an influence on us; and some small matter touching this influence Astrology knows; yet no more, and of no more use, then to assure her that she doth know something of it. But her vanity is, she promiseth much more then she is able to perform: and is led much more by fancy & pleassibilities, then sound reason. I could wish, that to *Multa prædicuntur, quæ non eveniunt; multa eveniunt, quæ non prædicuntur*, she had some other answer then *Pudet hæc opprobria nobis, &c.* And to let her know I wish it heartily, I shal make it part of my endeavour to furnish her with an answer. There is much to be found out, if men did but well attend to observation, and doubt even the very Principles of Astrology, til they had examined the truth of them. For the  
most

to the R E A D E R.

most important maximes in the Art are many of them shrewdly to be suspected, though there may be peradventure an instance or two alledg'd to their advantage, wherein they have hit passing well : because in Astrology (above most, if not all other pieces of learning ) it is very easie to mistake a *Non-cause* for a true cause : and a *Me ambulante cornuscavit*, for a *Sol oritur, ergo dies est*. The way to go forward in this excellent Art, is to look back and compare the accidents of men and States, with the influences of heaven, and this wil not only try the truth of the old Principles, but adde new ones : such (it is very likely ) as the sons of Art do not yet dream of. Which I have very great reason to say : and yet what that great reason is, I desire at present to be excused from



## The P R E F A C E

from saying, because it cannot bee said without Ostentation.

I shall conclude my complements to the Reader with two requests; one, that he will not make any hast to pass the sentence of condemnation against me for setting down severall idle, empty, and useless things (as he may possibly imagine them to be) till he hath read the sixth Aphorisme of the Lord *Bacons Parasceue*; The other, that if his native County afford any other Rarity, then what is related in this Book, he will be pleased to communicate it for the sake of Learning, (For its possible, I have not made the Meshes of my net so narrow, but that some of the small fry of curiosities have escaped me,) And in particular, if he be of *Dorsetshire*, that he would bestow upon us a punctuall account of that raining of blood at *Pool* with all its circumstances. And so I remit him to the Book it self, wishing him that satisfaction from it, which he expects, and bidding him heartily

FAREWELL.

An





*An occasionall Advertisement*  
*to the READER.*

**T**He READER is desired to take notice, that while this Book was in the Press, on Thursday being All Saints day, *November the first, 1660.* between ten of the Clock that night, and five of the Clock the next morning happened an unusuall shifting of the Tides in the *Thames at London*, ebbing and flowing three times (as it is reported) in that space. Which how it agrees with the time of my conjecture (not to say prediction) *pag. 97.* of this Book, I shall leave him to judge.

Further, it happened upon a Northwest-erly-wind, sometimes blowing pretty fresh, and sometimes remitting in a manner to a Calme (as my Diary of observations of the weather hath it for that day and night) and the Tides were at the Neapest; both which are according to my Hypothesis. Indeed

*An Advertisement*

deed the Moon was not in Apogæo but almost in the very place of her Perigæum; Which makes me begin to think the Apogæosis is not altogether so necessary to concur in the business, but that the Neapness of the Tides and the wind are able to do it of themselves ( assisted I mean with a private cause ) so the alternate intensions and remissions of the wind bee but proportionably greater to supply the want of the Apogæosis. I know many will hardly believe that that sentence of my conjecture at the time of this supposed Prodigy came fairly into the Book, but that it was foisted in out of a design of the Authours to make himself talked of, ( because it is the first prediction that was ever ventured at in this nature ) But I can assure them he is not so light a regarder of his reputation, as to endanger it by a forgery easily to be detected. If this profession be not of power to perswade the Authours integrity, let doubters know, he can ( if it be required of him ) tell when the like prodigy will happen again; and give a pre-account of some other Prodigies shortly to come. But ( as in duty bound ) he confesses, that ( *Secundum Deum* ) he owes all this new knowledge to the Lord Bacon.

Some busie *Scriptorculi* may perhaps go  
about

*to the READER.*

about to amule the people with strange matters portended in the State, by this pretended wonder; and the rather because it happened but the night before the arrivall of his *Majesties Royall Mother at London.* And it is probable (to affright you the more) they wil erect a figure for the beginning of it, and tell you that Saturn and Mars the two Malevolents with Sol and Mercury, are altogether in the fift house in Scorpio, the worst sign of the twelve, and the house of Mars; But that they hope Venus applying to a Conjunction of Jupiter in her own house in the 3 not far from an Angle, will much allay the venome of their influence. But I must tell them that this strange marvell, signifies nothing at all; and that whatever follows it, hath no relation to it. I believe had the thing fallen out about Midsummer last, the death of three English Dukes within less then three months space could not but have been thought the correspondent of that preface: whereas now (it falling just after) we are to seek for a Portent to bewaile the imminence of so signall a mortality.

*Britannia*

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*Britania Baconica :*

Or, the Natural

R A R I T I E S

O F

*England, Scotland, & Wales,*

According as they are to be found in every  
COUNTY, &c.

CORNWALL.



*Devonshire and Cornish-men* are more  
active in wrestling, and such boi-  
stons exercises then other Shires  
in *England*; being also more  
brawny, stout, and able of bo-  
dy: As for instance, one *John*  
Bray carried at his back at one time for the space  
of a But length, almost six Bushels of Wheaten  
Meal (reckoning fifteen Gallons to the Bushel)

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and

and the Miller, (a Lubber of twenty four years of age) upon the whole. And one *John Romans* a thick short fellow, would carry the whole Carcase of an Ox. There was also one *Kilbor*, who lying in *Launceston* Castle-green upon his back, threw a stone of some pounds weight over the top of one of the high Towers of that Castle. Which stoutness and goodly stature of these people, *Cambden* reflecting on, makes this observation: That the Western people of most countreys are the tallest and stoutest. I know not whether it hold in all Countreys, but so much is true, that the *Chineses*, the Eastermost people of this Continent of the World, are the most effeminate and unwarlike in the World; for which we have not only the authority of *Mendoza Pinto*, (who never told lye) but of many authentick Geographers. However I am rather induced to think, that it is the Rockiness of this County that gives the generality of the inhabitants these qualities: For it is as well observable, that rocky and mountainous places breed stout, hardy, warlike, and tall people, as we see by the *Highlanders* of *Scotland*, the *Switzers* and *Grisons*; low and flat Countreys rather disposing the Natives to ingenuity, craft, invention, and sedentary industry, as is manifest by the *Chineses* and the *Dutch*. And it may be the reason why the *Hollanders* are not altogether *Chineses* in stature, sloath, and cowardize, is because they inhabit the West side of a Continent:

The *Cornish* men are very healthful and long livers, eighty or ninety years of age is ordinary in

in every place, and in most persons accompanied with an able use of the body and senses. One *Polzow* lived 130 years; a Kinsman of his 112. one *Beauchamp* 106. and one *Brown* a beggar above 100. and in one Parish (in *Qu. Elizabeth's* time) there died in 14. Weeks space four people, whose years added together, made 340. And (to urge no more examples) one *Mr. Chamond* who lived at *Stratton* in this County, was Uncle and Great-Uncle to (at least) 300. The cause of this healthfulness I conceive to be also the rockiness and dryness of the Countrey, which though it be for the most part invironed with the sea, yet it hath few Marishes or Ouzy shores, but most sandy; and withall, the air is cleansed by often winds, lying so open to the sea: So that by reason of the purity of the air, the plague is seldom among them; and it was observed, that in *Anno 1589.* when our Fleet returned from the *Portugal* action, the Diseases which the Souldiers brought home with them, grew more grievous, as they carried them further into the Land, then it fell out at *Plymouth* where they landed; For there the Disease was though infectious, yet not so infectious; and though pestilential, yet not the Pestilence, as it after proved in other places. Yet the air of *Cornwall* is such, that it is apter to preserve, then recover health, especially in a stranger that is troubled with a lingering sickness.

There was within these hundred years, one *Mr. Alwel Parson* of *St. Tues* in *Cornwall*, who withall practised Physick, but so strange was his



Method ( not to say his Humor ) that though now and then he used blood-letting, and did administer commonly *Mannus Christi*, and the like Cordials; yet for all Diseases he did chiefly prescribe Milk, and very often Milk and Apples; by which means he did very many strange and desperate cures, and maintained his Reputation unimpaired; so that he had many Patients from the neighboring Counties. But whether it were *M. Atwels* Physick, or the pure air of *Cornwall* that did the cures, is hard to say; or whether there may not be some peculiar Medicines appropriated by Nature to some particular Airs, as well as to some particular Diseases, and that that which will do in *Cornwall*, or the like air, will not elsewhere.

The Spring is later in *Cornwall*, then in the East parts of *England*; the Summer temperate, but Harvest late, especially in the middle of the Shire, where they seldom get in their Corn before *Michaelmas*. The Winter is milder then elsewhere; for the frost and snow come very seldom, and never stay long when they do come. But this Countrey is much subject to storms, lying ( as I said ) so open to the sea. so that the Hedges are pared, and their Trees dwarf-grown, and the hard stones and iron bars of Windows are fretted with the Weather. One kind of these storms they call a Flaw; (and so indeed in some Counties they call any violent storm of Wind) which is a mighty Gale of Wind, passing suddenly to the shore with great violence.

*Cornwall*



*Cornwall* is hilly, ( one cause of the temperate heat of the Summer, and the lateness of the Harvest, even as its Maritime scituation is the cause of the gentleness of the Winter: ) hilly I say, parted with short and narrow Valleys, The earth is but shallow, underneath which is rocks and shels, so that it is hard to be tilled, and apt to be parched by a dry summer.

The middle of the shire lieth open, the earth being of a blackish colour, and bears heath and spiry grass. There is but little Meadow-ground, but store of pasture for cattel and sheep, and plenty of Corn-ground.

They have a stone here, called *Moore-stone*, found upon Moores and wast grounds, which serves them instead of Free-stone, for Windows, Doors and Chimneys. It is white with certain glimmering sparkles: They have a stone digged out of the sea-cliffs, of the colour of grey Marble, and another stone black as Jett; and our of the Inland Quarries they dig Free-stone. Nor must we forget to tell you ( speaking here of stones ) that the sea here works the pebbles upon the shore, by the often rolling of the waves, to a kind of roundness.

They have a slate of three sorts, blew, sage-leaf-coloured, and gray, which last is the worst; and all these slates are commonly found under another kind of slate, that they wall with, when the depth hath brought the Workmen to the Water. They also make Lime of a kind of Marble stone, either by burning a great quantity together with Furze, or with stone-coal in smal-

ler Kills, which is the cheaper way; but the first Lime is the whiter.

For Metals, they find Copper in sundry places here, and the Ore is sometimes ship'd to be refined in *Wales*. And though *Cicero* will have none in *Britain*, yet silver hath been found in this shire in the time of *Edward* the first, and *Edward* the third, who reaped good profit by it. Nay, Tinnors do find little quantities of Gold, and sometimes Silver among the Tin Ore, which they sell to the Gold-smiths. Also Diamonds are found in many places, cleaving to those Rocks out of which the Tin is digged: they are smooth, squared, and pointed by nature. Their quantity is from a Pease to a Wall-nut; but they are not so black and hard as the right ones. But the Metal which the Earth yields in greatest plenty, is Tin, in searching after which the Tinnors do many times dig up whole and huge Timber-Trees, which they think were overthrowen, and have lien buried in the earth ever since the flood. And they hold, that the Tin lay couched at the first before *Noahs* flood, in certain strakes among the Rocks like a Tree; from the depth whereof the main Load spreadeth out his branches till they approach the open air; but the Flood (say they) carried with the Rocks and Earth so much of the load, as was enclosed therein, and at the drying up of the flood, left the same scattered here and there in Valleys and Rivers where it passed; whence it comes to pass, that they finde Tin sometimes upon the Moor-Lands. In their Tin-Works they find

find daily among the Rubbish, Pick-Axes of Holm, Box, and Harts-Horn, and sometimes they find certain little Tool-Heads of Brass; and there was once found a Brass Coyne of the Emperor *Domitian*, in one of the Works; an argument that the *Romans* wrought in these Tin-Works in times past. They discover the Tin-Mines by certain Tin-stones, which are somewhat round and smooth, lying on the ground, which they call shoad. But (if we will believe stories) there is another way to discover them very easie, and that is by dreams; for so it is reported, some have found Works of great value. As in *Edward* the sixth his time a Gentlewoman (heir to one *Tresculierd*) dreamed, that a handsome man told her, that in such a Tenement of her Land she should find so much Tin, as would enrich her self and her posterity. She told her husband of it, who upon trial found a Tin-work there, which in four years was worth to him almost 4000 pounds. It is said also, that one *Taprel* of the parish of *S. Nior*, by a dream of his daughters was wished to such a place, which he farmed of the Lord of the soil, and found a Tin-Work accordingly, which made him a rich man. On which stories we may bestow this observation; That if they be true, they make much for the credit of Womens Dreams. For the stories touching the success of Dreams, are not to be rejected altogether as Fables, till they be examined, and ventilated in their peculiar History, which is the 51. History in the *L. Veculamus*

C 4 Catalogue,

Catalogue being there called, *Historia Somni, & Insomniarum.*

From the bottom of the Tin-Works, if they be of any depth, you shall see the stars at noon-day, in clear Weather. And the like may be done from the bottom of deep Wells (as they say) or any other deep pits. Nor is it any wonder, the cause being so plain. It is reported that *Tycho Brahe* in his Isle of *Huena*, shewed *K. James* the stars in the day-time) at what time he went into *Denmark*,) from out of a Cave cut a good way into the side of a Hill for the purpose.

If the load (as they call it) of the tin lye right down, the tinnerns follow it sometimes to the depth of 40. or 50. fathoms, and the deeper they sink, the greater they find the Load.

The labour of the tinnerns is so hard and tedious, that they cannot work above four hours in a day. And as they dig their load sloapwise under the ground, the air at length will not yeild them breathing, till they sink a shaft, (as they call it, that is a hole) perpendicular down to that place from the top, or surface of the Earth. And though (when they have so done) the light be just over their heads, yet is the Pit still so dark, that they are faine to work most by Candle-light, of which the reason is plain enough. In their passage under ground, they meet sometimes with very loose Earth; sometimes with extreme hard Rock, (where though commonly they make speedyway through with their Pickaxes, yet now and then they light upon such an hard piece of Rock, that a good  
Work;

Work-man will scarce be able to hew above a foot in a Week) sometimes again they meet with great streams of Water; and sometimes with stinking damps that distemper their heads for the present; but there is no great danger in the consequence.

The Tin Stone being brought above ground out of the Work, is broken in pieces with hammers, and then stamped at a Mill into smaller pieces (and if the Stone be moist, it is dried by the fire in an iron Cradle) and then it is ground to a fine sand. Then this sand being laid in water that runs over it, hath all the earth washed from it, and then it is called black tin, which is carried to the blowing house, where it is melted by a Charcole Fire, blown by a great pair of Bellows moved by a Water-wheel (the attenders on which bellows may be known from other men by their faces tanned and discoloured with smoke) and then it is coined. Further it is to be noted, that there is hard Tin and soft Tin; but the soft Tin is the more worth of the two: A foot of black Tin is in measure two Gallons; but the weight of it is uncertain, and is according to the goodness of it. A foot of good Moor Tin (which is held the best) will weigh about 80. pound: A foot of the Mine Tin (which is meaner) 52. pound: of the worst 50. pounds. Two pounds of good black Tin being melted, will yield one pound of white Tin. Tin also hath been made of that refuse that the Tanners formerly have rejected, and with good profit. And so much for the Tin-Works, and for Metals. In

In some places on the coast of *Cornwall*, there are Pearls found that breed in big Oysters and Muskles, yet though they are great, they are not good, being neither round nor Orient. Here are also Agates and white Coral, as they say. *It may be this white Coral may be of the same kind with Isidis Plocamos, that grows about the Isle of Portland, of which more hereafter.*

About two miles Eastward from *St. Michaels Mount* at a low Water, they cast aside the sand on the shore, and dig up turfs that are full of Root of trees, and on some of these they have found Nuts, which seems to argue some inundation of the sea upon this shore: I have heard the like story of a place in *Scotland*: I shall not defend or impugn the truth of these stories; onely this is manifest in Nature, that the excluding of air from preying upon bodies, preserves them much longer from putrifaction.

In the West part of *Cornwall* there are Bents growing on sandy fields, which are knit from over the head in narrow breadths after a strange fashion, of which they make mats.

In this shire grows greater store of *Samphiro* and *Sea-holly*, ( whose Roots commonly called, *Eringo-Roots*, are a great restorative and corroborative, being preserved in *Syrup*) then in any other part of *England*. Some of the gaully grounds do also yield plenty of *Rosa Solis* ( more properly called *Ros Solis*, a Plant that grows indeed in boggy and quagmire grounds ) Upon the Sea-cliffs in *Cornwall* grow wilde *Hyssop*, *Sage*, *Peld-mountain*, *Adajerain*, *Rosmary*, and other fragrant Herbs. The

The Husbandmen in *Cornwall*, about *May*, cut up all the grass of that ground, which they intend to break up and till, into turfs, which they call *Beating*; and raise these turfs so, that the sun and wind may dry them the sooner; and after they are thoroughly dryed, they pile them in little heaps, and burn them to ashes. Then they bring in *Sea-sand*; & a little before ploughing time, they scatter abroad those ashes, & the sand heaps upon the ground, & plough it in, which giveth heat to the root of the corn: This sand makes the ground rich; and if they strow it too thick, the ground will be too rank, and choke the Corn with weeds. When the ground is thus sanded and ordered, the tiller can commonly take but two crops of wheat, and two of oats; and then is fain to give it at least 7. or 8. years layer, or fallow, and to till elsewhere. But the inland Countrey requires not so much sand as the places by the sea side. The tillable fields are in some places so hilly, that the Oxen can hardly take sure footing: in some places so tough, that the Plough can scarce cut them; and in some places so shelly, that the Corn can hardly fasten its roots. They have two sorts of wheat, viz. *French wheat*, which is bearded, and requires the best soil, and brings the best crop; and another wheat not bearded, which is sown in the worser Land, and yeildeth the less crop. In those grounds that will bear no wheat, they sow *Rye*; yet in the western parts of *Cornwall* they sow *Barley* in the parts near the sea, which they carry to the Mill within eight or nine weeks after they sowed it.

For



For fruits, they have a sort called *Whurts*, as also *Chesnuts*, (but whether they ripen there, or not, mine Author saith not) and *Grapes*. For though the Countrey be bleak, yet Vines prosper well, and their Grapes are pleasant of taste, as in most other Southern parts of *England*.

They have little wood or timber, unless in the East quarters of the Shire, where there are some Coppice woods. And hereabouts (saith mine Author) the Countrey people have a fable that the Snakes by their breathing about a hazle-wand, do make a stone-ring of blew colour, in which there appeareth the yellow figure of a snake; and that Beasts which are stung being given to drink some of the water wherein this stone hath been soaked, will thereby recover.

It is observed, that strangers at their first coming into *Cornwall*, are much visited with Lice, and yet the cleanly Natives find no such matter.

For Beasts, here are *Marternes*, *Badgers*, *Otters*, (some of which, though they are all of the same kind) live in the cliffs, and there breed, and feed on sea-fish; and others live in the fresh Rivers, which sometimes also feed on Lambs and Poultry; *Foxes* (who have their holes in abundance in the steep cliffs by the sea side) *Goats*, *Rather Cattle*, *Horses*, (but they are but small and low) but there are no red Deer at all.

Their draught Oxen have each his Name, which he knows when he is at work. VVhen *Cornwall* lay wast and open for want of manuring,



ring, the sheep had generally little bodies, and coarse wool, so that it was called *Cornish* hair; but since it hath been manured, their sheep are little inferior to the Eastern Flocks for bigness, fineness of wool, often breeding, speedy fattening and price, and besides are sweeter Mutton, and freer from the rot. Most of the *Cornish* sheep have no horns, and those that are so, have the finer wool, and those that are horned, have indeed more in quantity, yet courser; yet in some places of *Cornwall* the sheep have four horns.

*Cornish* Cattel are but small.

For Birds and Fowl *Cornwall* hath these following, viz. *Woodcocks*, (in abundance) *Sparhawks* (the most useless of *Hawks*, serving to flye little above six weeks in the year, and that onely at the *Partridge*) &c. but there are no *Nightingales*, at least very few: A thing not to be wondred at by reason of the great scarcity of woods, (as I said) the delight of that Bird: *Furzes* and *Brooms* being all that looks like woods in this countrey; of the former of which they have great, and of the latter good quantity.

In the West parts of *Cornwall*, during the winter, swallows are found sitting in old deep Tinworks, and holes of the sea cliffs.

In *Q. Elizabeths* time a flock of Birds came into *Cornwall* about Harvest, a little bigger then a Sparrow, which had bills thwarted crosswise at the end, and with these they would cut an apple in two at one snap, eating onely the Kernels; and they made a great spoil among the apples.

ples. These birds are common (saith mine Author) in *Gloucestershire* and other apple countreys. The cause of these birds rambling so far into *Cornwall* that year, was, I conceive, the failing of fruit in the fruit countreys, as in *Gloucestershire*, *Herefordshire*, *Worcestershire*, &c. and its taking in *Cornwall* and some other parts. (For we know that it often happens, that fruit fails in one countrey, and takes in another) which obliged these birds to seeke for their peculiar food where it was to be had. We read in our *Chronicles*, that at the time when field Mice did so swarm in *Denge Hundred* in *Essex*, in the yeare 1580. that they eat up all the roots of the grasse &c. a great number of Owles, of strange and various colours, assembled and devoured them all; and after they had made an end of their prey, they took their flight back again, from whence they came. The reason of which I conjecture to be the same with the former. For that which produced these Mice in that great abundance, was an extreame dripping warm year, and a mild and moist winter, as countrey men assure us, & *Kepler* himself belives is the constant cause of that Vermin. Now because (though God can, yet) nature cannot extend the same extremity of weather all over the world; but (as is most probable) when there is an extremity of warmth and moisture in one countrey, there is as great an extremity of cold and drought in another (even as we see that the reason why it flows in one Port, is because it ebbs in another; the reason, I say, or at least the cause *a fine qua non*)

hence it follows, that the extremity of of warmth and moisture that we had then in England, could not have been without as great an extremity of cold and drought in some other countreys, which (because an enemy to generation, especially to that of this Vermine) made them fail most certainly in those other countreys, whose Nature and temper is apt to produce them more constantly and abundantly, and (it may be) almost alwayes. Whence these painted Owls (strangers to us, but not to those countreys, where the abundance and constancy of food makes them daily Guests) very likely were forced by hunger to seek out food, which provident Nature had provided for them in other places, where their stay was no longer then till they had spent their provision, and then *ad pristina presapia*. All which these flying Pilgrims might very well do, without any great notice how and whence they came, and whither they went, because they are birds of night, and travel onely in the dark. And I conceive the reason of several birds leaving us, and returning again at set times of the year, to be much like this; either they find that food that pleaseth them here among us at some times of the year, which we have not for them at others; or (which is probable in some birds) they delight in one certain degree of heat or cold, and as they find the constant temper of the season to grow hotter or colder, they accordingly take their flight more Northernly or Southerly; and if the winter prove very mild, then

then the Winter birds (as *Fieldfares*, &c.) come not quite home to us, finding their due proportion of warmth in countreys more Northerly then we; and if the Winter prove extreme sharp, then they flye beyond us to the southward; yet taking our climate by the way, at the beginning of the sharp weather, they give a presage to countrey people of a hard Winter by their early appearing.

Every Hill almost in *Cornwall*, sendeth out a spring whose waters are pleasant and wholesom. That the springs should be so frequent in a barren countrey, I do not wonder; for where the vegetables are but few and small, to spend the stock of rain that falls, there must needs be the more left to soak into the earth, and make springs.

And that the waters of these springs (though strained through the Tin-Mines) should be all pleasant, wholesom, not Medicinal or purgative, I conceive the cause may be for that Tin is a fast metal, and not apt to dissolve and communicate its self to the water, that passeth through it, as appears also by its slow rusting. Whereas iron, which is not so fast, but more apt to rust, easily gives a Tincture to springs, (as appears by *Tunbridge wells*) and makes them medicinal.

For fishes, they have these kinds, viz. the *Shoate* (a fish proper to *Devonshire* and *Cornwall*; it is like a *Trout*, but lesser, and nothing near so good as a *Trout*) *Peale*, *Trout*, and *Salmon*, (which breed in fresh water, and live in salt.) The *Trout* & *Peale* come from the sea between *March* & *Midsummer*,  
into

into the rivers to shed their Spawn. The *Salmons* chief coming is between *Michaelmas* and *Christmas*; for till then the rivers are too shallow for them. The *Salmons* are fattest when they come first from the Sea: they pass up as high as any water can carry them to Spawn the more safely, and to that end take advantage of the great rain floods. And after *Christmas* they return to the Sea, and as the spring comes on, the young fry follow; and it hath been observed, that the *Salmon*, *Trout*, and *Peale* haunt the same rivers where they first were bred. The nature of the *Salmon* is, that if in the night he see any light, as of a Candle, or of Lightning, he will come to the top of the water, and play in and out. The *Cornish-men* use to take *Salmons* and *Trouts* by tickling them under the bellies, and so throwing them on the land, *Sharkes* ( in the rivers ) *Lobsters*, *Crabbs*, ( many of the *Crabbs* breeding in *Cockle-shells*, and many of the *Lobsters* in *Wrinkle-shells* ( as my selfe have seen, saith mine Author ) and being grown they come forth, and live in holes of rocks, from whence at low water they are dragged out by a long crook of Iron. ) *Oysters* of wch they hold that there are male & female *Oysters* the female *Oysters* about *May or June* have in them a milk, which they then shed and whereof the *Oyster* is ingendred; the little ones at first cleave in great numbers to the mothers shel, & waxing bigger toward *Michaelmas*, they fall away, and fall asunder one from another: onely here and there some are fast knit together ( two, three, or more in a cluster ) that nothing but violence will sever them. Some people have

a conceit, that in Summer they are all sick, (as if the males did breed their wives children) and out of season; as indeed the milky are. But some Gentlemen (saith M. Carew) have found the contrary by experience, eating of them at all times of the year without danger. *Oysters* have this property, that though taken out of the water, they open against the flood time, and close upon the ebbe. Yet they will close before; if they chance to be touched; whence it once hapned (saith the same Gentleman) that an *Oyster* lying open did by his sudden shutting catch three young mice by the heads, that were going to eat him.) *Soale* and *Playce* (both which follow the tide into the fresh rivers) *Eels* (some whereof are bred in fresh water, and are of the best tast. The great rain floods after *September* break their beds, where they breed, and carry them into the Sea; the other *Eeles* called *Conger-Eeles* are bred in Salt water, and when they are grown a little, they go into the Ocean.) *Porcupisce* and *Seale* (the *Porcupisce* is a very big fish, and black: they chase the smaller fish from the Sea into the rivers, leaping up and down the water, one after another; puffing like a fat Lubber out of breath, and so follow their chase as far as any water will carry them, which the fishermen observing get below them with their Boats, and cast a strong net cross the stream, with which and their loud and continuall shouting they fray them from retiring, till the ebbe hath left them, and then they take them. The *Seal*-fish is like a Pig; ugly faced, and footed like a *Moldmarp*: he loves musick, or any loud noise, and

and after the noise wil come a shore, almost above water, and sometime many of them will come a shore, and lye sleeping in holes of the cliffe, where they kill them with Guns. *Seale* and *Porcpisce* use to be cut in pieces, and powdered, and it seems being so ordered, they are eatable ) *Scallops* ; *Sea-hedgehogs* (both which are found on the Sea coasts. The *Sea-hedgehog* is restaurative, being enclosed in a round shell like a loaf of bread, handsomely wrought and pinked, and guarded with prickles ) the *Sheathfish* ( which is also found upon the coast : it is as big, and as long as a mans finger, and tastes like a Lobster, but is more restaurative ) *Pilchards* ( the *Pilchard* is a little fish, and a great multiplier, he comes up into the fresh water between Harveft and *Allhollandtide* pursuing into the rivers a fish called a *Britt*, upon which hee feeds. He is also himself a prey to a bigger kind of fish, called a *Plusher*, which is like a Dogfish, and leaps up now and then above water. Other fish likewise prey upon the *Pilchard*, as the *Tonny* fish, the *Hake* ( a fish so called ) as also a kind of bird called a *Gannett* ) the *Starfish* ( which is held to be contagious, but whether it be that fish which in *Kent* the fishermen call 5 fingers, and 12 fingers I know not. ) *Tonny* and *Turbot* ( which they use to boil, and preserve fresh in Vinegar ) &c.

On the North side of *Cornwall*, and to the Westward of *Foy*, few or no *Salmons* are taken. The cause whereof I think is, because there both the Seas are too unquiet for them, as commonly they are about *Promontories*, and the mouths of



swift rivers, such as Seavern; and because there are no rivers of any competent bigness thereabout, fit for them to spawn in.

There swims in the Sea upon this coast a round slimy substance, called a Blobber, which is thought to be noisome and hurtfull to the fish (which I suppose is that that is very frequent in the river of Medway by *Rochester*, and called there a Water-gall.)

For Sea fowl, they have these following, viz. *Gulls*, *Pewees*, and other Sea fowls, (which breed in little Islands, laying their eggs in the grass, and not building any nests; and they have young ones about *Whisuntide*. And here mine Author relates, that an old *Gull*, was known for many years together to come, and feed young *Gulls* kept tame in a Gentlemans yard joining to his house that bordered upon a cliff of the Sea.) *Puffins* (a fowle which hatcheth in holes of the Sea cliffs, and whose flesh tasteth like fish) *Burranets* (a fowle that hatcheth also in holes of the Sea cliffs, and when her young ones are hatched, she leads them sometimes a mile or better into the land, where they are ordinarily taken and kept tame with Ducks.

There are also *Spraves* here, the same fowle, that *Pliny* calls *Haliaetos*, but it is not eatable.

The *Chough* is a peculiar bird to this County, being found no where else in *England*; it haunts the Seas, but feeds not upon fish. His bill is sharp, long and red, his leggs red, and his feathers black. It is a very unlucky bird (and mischievous like the *Pye*) for he will hide mony, and

and other little things, and will carry sticks of fire about, and set barns, stacks, &c. on fire. He is frequent about the Alpes.

There are many Lepers in *Cornwall*, who are thought to contract that disease from much eating of fish, especially newly taken, and more especially from the eating of the Livers of such new fish; but some have it as an hereditary disease from their Ancestors.

The ancient *Cornish* men were excellent archers, they would shoot an arrow 24. score: their Arrow was a Cloath yard long, wherewith they would pierce any ordinary Armour: One Mr. *Robert Arundel* would shoot 12. score with his righthand, with his left hand, and behind his head; And one *Robert Bone* shot at a little Bird upon a Cows back, and killed the Bird without touching the Cow.

In *Cornwall* they find that sea sand is more fructifying and enriching then land sand, by reason of its saltness, as they think. And they further observe, that the Sand is the better, by how much the farther down in the sea it lyes. They use also ozymud to lay upon their land, but it is not altogether so good as the Sand. There is also a weed called *Orewood*, whereof some grows upon Rocks under high-water mark, and some is broken from the bottom of the sea by rough weather, and cast upon the next shore by the wind and flood; and with these Weeds they compass their Barley Land. This floating *Orewood* that is cast a shore by the flood, is now and then found naturally formed like ruffs and Combs.

Upon the shore of this County, in many places are found shells of sundry fashions and colours, (as indeed there are upon many shores elsewhere) and in some places on the shore there are Nuts to be found like a sheeps kidney, but flatters with a hard brownish rind, and the kernell is without taste, and (as they say) good for Women in travell.

*Edgecomb* house by *Plymouth* is a very healthful dwelling, though near the Sea : The cause is, because it is hilly, rocky, and free from marshes. For which reason the Country about *Dover* in *Kent* is found to be healthfull too, though lying just upon the Sea. This house is famous for two things; first for the brave *Etcho* about it, and then for a sort of Stone, that they dig near it, which serves for building, lime, and marle, and all.

Some Gentlemen in this Country have for their delight Salt-water pond, into which if you cast boughes of trees, *Oysters* will grow upon them.

At *Trematon* in *Cornwall* in the Parish Chancell, a Leaden Coffin was digged up, in which being opened was found the proportion of a very big mans body, but being touched it turned to dust. It was thought to be the body of Duke *Orgarnus*, who, as *Speed* saith, married his daughter to King *Edgar* : for there was an inscription on the Coffin, that signified, it was the body of a Duke, whose heir was married to a Prince.

*Saltaſh* is a very healthfull place ; In this Town there

there is a Well, the water of which will never boile peason to an eatable softness.

On *Hengsten*-down a little above *Plimouth* are great store of *Cornish* Diamonds. The people about this Country observe, that when *Hengsten* top is capped with a cloud, a shower followeth soon after.

The Country men in *Cornwall* are great eaters of Garlick for healths sake, whence they call it there, the Country mans Treacle.

The cement or mortar of the walls of *Tintogell* Castle resist the fierceness of the weather better then the stones.

The Town of *Bodmin* is held a very unhealthfull place, and the cause of it they say is, for that it hath one street (a mile in length) running due East and West, on the South side whereof it hath a great high hill that hides the Sun from it; and their Back-houses, as Kitchens, Stables, &c. are climbed up to by steps and every great shower washeth the Sulledge of them through the houses into the streets; and (which is more) their Conduit water runs through the Church yard.

It will not be amiss to add here out of our Author an odde presage of the *Cornish* rebellion in the time of *Edward* the sixth, which happened in this Town of *Bodmin*. About a year before that rebellion the Scholars of *Bodmin* School grew into two factions, the one (as they call it) for the old religion, the other for the new; and this quarrell was prosecuted with some eagerness sun-

dry times, till by an unhappy accident ( no other then the killing of a Calfe during the beardless conflict ) complaint was made to the Master, and so the play ended. Which presage is seconded with severall others of the like nature out of ancient & modern history ; but so impertinent to our design, and too tedious to be here related.

In Saint *Cleeres* parish in *Cornwall*, there are upon a plain six or eight Stones, such as are upon *Salsbury* plain, which like them two vwill be mistaken in the telling ; so that vvhen they are told over again, they will be found over or under the first number. A thing, that happens ( no doubt ) meerly by their confused standing.

There is a story that passes concerning Saint *Kaines* well in this County ; vvhich is, that vvho-soever drinks first of the vvater, be it husband or vvife, gets the mastery. A fit fable for the vulgar to believe.

At *Hall* near *Foy* there is a Fagot vvhich is all one piece of vvood, naturally grovvvn so, and it is vvrapped about the middle vvith a bond, and parted at ends into four sticks, one of vvhich sticks is subdivided into two others. It was carefully preserved ( and painted over, that it might keep the better ) for many years by the Earl of *Devon*, being reckoned a fore-token of his progeny. For his Estate ( saith Mr. C. ) is now come into the hands of four *Cornish* Gentlemen, one of vvhose Estates is likewise divided between two Heirs.

An Earthen Pot was found many years ago near *Foy*, gilded and graved vvith Letters, in a great  
Stone

Stone Chest, and full of a black Earth, the Ashes ('tis like) of some ancient Roman.

In *Lanhadron Park* there grows a n Oak that bears Leaves speckled with white; and so doth another called *Painters Oak*, in the Hundred of *East*. It is certain (saith our Author) that divers ancient Families in *England*, are pre-admonished of their end by Oaks bearing of strange leaves.

There are two Lakes not far asunder, nor far from *St. Agnes Hill* in this shire, whereof the one wil live and Fish thrive in, but not in the other.

By *Nelford* is a great Rock lying upon the ground, and the top of it is hollow like the long half of an Egg. This they say holdeth water, which ebberth and floweth with the Sea. And indeed (saith Mr. C.) when I came hither to see this curiosity, the Tide was half gone, and the Pit or hollowness half empty.

There is a Rock in this shire called *Mainamber*, which is a very great one, and yet so laid upon lesser Rocks, that the push of a finger will sensibly move it to and fro; but not all the strength which men can make, can remove it from the place.

The Cliffs to the Westward of *St. Joes* in *Cornwall*, have streaks of a glittering colour, like Copper, which shew as if there were a likelihood of finding Copper there.

An exceeding big Carcass of a man was found by Tanners digging at a Village near the Lands end, called *Trebegean*. Hitherto I have borrowed all I have written (save onely my conjectures at the causes) out of Mr. *Curen's* ingenious Book, called, *The Survey of Cornwall*, published in the year 1602.

What

What *Cambden* and others say over and above, is as followeth.

The chief time of the swarming (as one would say) of *Pilchards* about the shores of *Cornwall*, is from *July* to *November*, at which time they are taken, garbaged, salted, and hanged in the smoak, laid up and pressed, and so carryed away, and sold in *France* and other Countreys.

In the Rocks at the Landsend, at a low Water, are found Veins of white Lead, and brasse.

At *St. Michael's Mount*, at low ebbs, one may see Roots of mighty Trees in the Sands, which shews that there hath been overflowing of the sea upon this coast hereabout; as it appeareth also to have been about *Plymouth Haven*, and other places adjoyning. And it is manifest that the sea hath devoured much Land upon the coast of *Cornwall*, towards *Silley Islands*. For between the Landsend and *Silley*, the sea is all of an equal depth of about 40. or 60. fathom, Water being about 30 Miles in length; onely in the mid way there lyes a Rock called the *Gulf*. The cause of the devouring of this Land by the sea, I conceive to be its being a Promontory lying open to the merciless stormes and weather, and withall, lying in a place where two currents meet and part; I mean the Tide as it comes in, and returns out of the Sleeve, or narrow Seas, and the *Irish Seas*, and *Seavern*; the rolling and force of the Sea being apt to carry before it all that stands in its vway, according to the proportion that its own strength bears to the yeeldingness of the object. But the cause why the *Gulf* rock was not washed away with the rest, is because it



it was of too stubborn a matter, and too fast founded in the Earth. Nor can I think but that the *Silly* Islands were once all parts of the main Land of England, ( and the like I conceive of *Heyfant* in France, an Isle lying before the Promontory of Britain) but severed by degrees each from other, and all from the Continent by the means above-mentioned.

At *Stratton* in *Cornwall* grows the best *Garlick* in all the Countrey. It may be old *Mr. Chandon* (before spoken of) owed part of the cause of his great age, to his living so near the best *Garlick* the Countrey man's Treacle.

On the shore of this shire, about 30. or 40. years ago, was a huge Mass of *Ambergrise*, found by a poor Fisherman; a story very famous, and frequent in the mouths of several persons of credit and quality.

DEVON.



## DEVONSHIRE.

**T**HE west of this Shire (being that which borders upon *Cornwall*) is stored with Tin Mines. The River *Lid* by *Lidford* runs under ground. At *Combmarion* are found Mines of Lead, and some Veins of Silver.

*Ordulphus* (this Countrey man, for he was Son of *Ordou*, E. of *Devonshire*) was a Giant-like man, that (if *William of Malmeshury* say true) would break open the bars of Gates, and stride 10. foot. 'Tis probable he was one of somewhat a larger proportion then ordinary (and so might give a fair occasion for the *Hyperbole*) and that the brawniness and big-bodiedness of the *Cornish* men may extend to their neighbours of *Devonshire*.

The air of *Devonshire* is sharp and wholesom: the soil hilly and woody; and here they use (as in *Cornwall*) sea-sand to mend and enrich their Land, which makes it very fat and battle.

*Devonshire* abounds with Wool, Kerfies, Sea-fish, and Sea-fowl.

Load-stones have been found upon *Dartmore* Rocks, of good value and vertue.

Upon *Exmore* are such stones, (huge, and placed confusedly) as are upon *Salisbury* Plain; and one of them hath *Danish* Letters upon it, directing passengers that way.

At

At *Hubblestow* in this shire, was a battel fought by the *Danes*, where their Banner called *Renfan*, in which they reposed confidence of Victory and Success, was notwithstanding taken, and *Hubba* their Captain slain.

It is reported by several persons of credit, that during the late War, at the time that *Exeter* was besieged by the Parliaments forces, an infinite number of Larks came flying into the Town, and settled in a void green place within the Walls, where they were killed by the besieged in huge quantities, and eaten.

## DORSETSHIRE.

THE Air of this Shire is healthful, and the Sea yeildeth the shrub called *Isidis Plocamas*, growing without leaves, like Coral; When it is cut, it waxeth hard and black, and is brittle. It groweth among that useles Sea-Weed, called *Algar*, and is most plentiful about the Isle of *Poriland*.

About *Birtport*, or *Burport*, grows the best Hemp in these parts of *England*.

The River of *Sture* affordeth great store of *Tench* and *Eeles*: Probably 'tis a maddy River.

*Alame* and *Coperas* is made at *Canford* in this Shire; the reason I suppose is because the shores of the Sea (not far from it) may afford *Copperas* stones for the purpose, in good quantity.

At

At *Shaftsbury* (as say some of our Historians) lived in times past one *Aquila* (which yet some will have to be the Bird of that name) who prophesied, that the *Brittish* Empire after the *Saxons* and *Normans* would return to the old *Britans*. There was never any age of the World, but it afforded a Prophet for a pleasing improbability; and the greater or more pleasing the improbability, the more the Prophets.

At *Pool* in the year 1653. June 20. it is reported, that it rained warm blood. The particulars of which would be well worth the while to enquire after, because *Peiresk'us*, the noble *French* Philosopher, contends, that that blood falls not out of the air, but is a superfluous matter remaining after the hatching of a Butter-flye, and left in such places sometimes, where no rain can come to drop. It were easie to enquire the true particulars of it, being so late a prodigy. I once had a conceit, (but I had no reason to cherish it long) that this Blood might be engendered of some Vapours drawn up by the *Sun* from that part of the Sea where the cruel Sea-fight was fought between the *English* and *Dutch*, not far from this Town, and not long before this time; as if the crimson'd Sea had afforded a Crimson Vapour to make this rain of. But this is not the first plausible error that I have had. Query, whether about *Pool*, and in the Isle of *Wight*, and other places in *England*, where our Histories tell us it hath rained blood, there be not generally greater store of Butterflies and Grasshoppers then elsewhere.

In the Haven of this Town of *Pool*, the sea contrary to all other Ports in *England* ebbs and flows (like another *Euripus*) four times in 24. hours; for first it flows a S.E. and N.W. *Moon*, and then a South and by East, and a North and by West *Moon* once more, vvhich second flood is caused (as Seamen conceive) by the return of the fore-ebb, vvhich coming from the *Sussex* Coast, and so along betveen the Isle of *Wight*, and the main Land of *Hants*hire, strikes in here, as lying in its vway. Note that *Euripus* in *Eubaa*, is scituated almost like *Pool*.

At *Hermitage* in *Dorsetshire* (it lyes, I think in the vail of *White Hart*) in the year 1582. & 3. January the 13. being *Sunday*, a piece of ground of three Acres, removed from its old place (saith *Stow* in his *Summary*) and vvas carryed over another Close vvhether Alders and Willows grew, the space of 40. Rods or Perches, and stopt up the Highway that led to *Cerne* (a Market Town) and yet the Hedges that it vvas enclosed vwith, enclose it still, and the Trees stand bolt upright; and the place vvhether this ground vvas before, is left like a great pit.

The *Portland* men (like the ancient Inhabitants of the *Baleares* Isles in the *Mediterranean* Sea) are excellent flingers.

In the Isles of *Purbeck* are Veins of Marble running under the earth.



## SOMERSETSHIRE.

**I**N this Shire the Air is mild, and the soil generally very wet, miry, and moorish.

Of the hot Baths in this Shire (at the City of Bath) *Johnson* in his *Mercurius Botanicus*, gives us this description. Bath (saith he) lyes in a plain (not great) encompassed with Mountains almost of an equal height. The Baths are four, the *King's Bath*, the *Queen's Bath*, the *Cross Bath*, and the *Hot Bath*: The *King's Bath* lyes in the middle of the City, being about 60. feet square, and it hath about the middle of it many hot Springs rising, whence it hath the greater heat. The *Queen's Bath* hath no Spring in it, but only receives the Water from the *King's Bath* (from which it is onely divided by a Wall) for which reason it is more temperate then the Kings. In these two Baths there is a Pump to pump Water upon the diseased, where strong Embrocations (as Physicians speak) are required; for often times the matter of the Disease is so contumacious, that simple bathing wil not remove it. The *Cross Bath* and *Hot Bath* are in the West part of the City. The *Cross Bath* is Triangular, and about 25. foot long, and as broad at one end. It hath not so many Springs as the Kings Bath, and hot bath have; and therefore is of a more gentle

gentle heat. About 22. paces from the *Cross Bath*, is the *Hot Bath*, so called, because formerly when it was not so large as now it is, it was much hotter then the rest. But now it is only as hot as the *King's Bath*, or but little hotter. It is 27. foot long, & 13. foot broad. The Water of all these *Baths* in a small quantity seems clear and pellucid; but if one look upon its surface in the *Bath*, it looks somewhat green, (or of a blew or sea-colour, as *Cambden* saith) and it hath a *Bituminous* unsavoury smell, but almost no taste, at least it is hardly perceivable to the palate. Once a week the *Baths* are emptied, and swept clean; onely the *Cross Bath*, because of its frequent use and its narrowness, is sometimes cleantied twice a week. For the nature of the water is, that about 4. or 5. hours after the going out of the *Baths*, the water casts out a foamy scum or filth which swims on the top of it, and fouls it. The Minerals that are conceived by learned Writers to give these Waters their heat and Tincture, are *Bitumen*, *Sulphur*, and *Nitre*; and there is *Bitumen*, *Sulphur* and *Nitre* being in less quantity: The Mineralness of these Waters appears also by a way that the people of *Bath* have to give Silver Money a Golden colour, which is done with a Composition made (as they say) of the mud of the *Bath*, and some of the *Bath-Water* and Urine mixed together, with which composition they rub the Money which they intend to gild; but the colour is but pale and faint, and will quickly wear off. Now that it is a *Bituminous* and *Sulphury* matter that gives this Water its

E

heat



heat and tincture; besides its Medicinal Vertues, as that it dryes, heats, dissolves, softens, opens, attracts, digests, cuts, and is absterfive, &c. there is this manifest proof, that the Countrey hereabouts is full of Cole-Mines, especially about *Bristol*, and the southermost parts of *Glocestershire*, as *Mengerfield*, *Westerley*, &c. and so also under *Mendip-Hills*; that part of them that lyes towards *Frome-Selwood*. And all *Naturallists* agree (as they have reason) that *Coale* is a *Bituminous* and *sulphury* matter; For that it is a *Bitumen*, is manifest by its black pitchy viscosity, and its melting as it burns: And that there is a quantity of *Sulphur* in it, is as evident by the *Brimstony* smell the Embers of them give, as any one may find that will but hold his head a while over a pan of them; as also by their burning blew many times, especially when they burn eagerly, as in frosty Weather; whence many people reckon the fires burning blew, a signe of frost and hard weather: And (which is yet a further argument, the *Coale* hereabouts hath abundance of *Veins* like *Gold* or *Brass* in it (as I have often observed my self, and it may be observed every day; for indeed there is nothing more common) a thing which I could never observe in *New-Castle Coal*, though this *Cake* as that doth, and doth not burn all away to a white ashes, as the *Coale* which they dig about *Staffordshire*, and which I think they call *Cannel-Coale*.

There are (saith *Cambden*) a kind of pit-coals digged near the River *Frome*, with which *Smiths* use

use to soften Iron. These are the Coales I mentioned before, under *Mendip Hills*, toward *From-Selwood*: That they should soften Iron, is no wonder, since we see any Coal, or the like violent fire doth the same; but whether they have a singular power thatway above other coal, may be further enquired.

It is reported that about *Uphill* (Parish by the sea-side not far from *Axbridge*) within these half hundred years, a parcel of Land swelled up like a hil, and on a sudden clave asunder, and fell down again into the Earth, and in the place of it remains a great Pool.

At *Keinsham* in stone quarries, are found stones in the form of a Serpent, like the *Whitbay* stones (of which I shall speak more in *Yorkshire*) onely here is the difference between them; whereas those at *Whitbay* want heads, some of these have. Hereabouts also (saith *Cambden*) grows *Percopier*, or *Parley-break stone*, an Herb proper to *England*, bitter, hot, biting and sowre, without stalk, with herby Flowers, never above a span high: It grows naturally all the yeer long; it is extremely diuretical, and very quick in operation; Yet however *Cambden* puts it down as a special rarity in this place; our modern *Herbarists* make no such rarity of it; for *Mercurius Botanicus* saith indefinitely, that it grows in *Agris Siccioribus*, that is, in dry grounds; and others say that it is commonly to be found in airable fields after Harvest.

At *Bristol* it flows a 11. or 12. Ells in height every Tide; an extraordinary proportion in

comparifon of moft places on the *Engliſh* ſhore. The cauſe I ſuppoſe is, the extreme wide and direct mouth of *Severn*, lying open to the Vaſt *Atlantick Sea*, where the Tide comes rolling in a-main, and being contracted as it comes in higher into the River, and land-locked, and not being able to fall back again (til it ebb without in the Main) by reaſon of the continual ſucceſſion of Water, muſt needs ſwel to that height in the *Severn*, and by conſequence very eaſily communicate part of his burden to the *Avon* of *Briſtol*.

Not far from *Briſtol* is the famous Rock called *St. Vincents Rocks*, ragged, and hanging over the bank of the River of *Avon*; where (ſaith *Johnſon*) is a Well of warm Water, pleaſing to the taſt. It flows out of the Cleſt of a great Rock, & is overflowed every Tide, and left open to the air at the ebb; for its ſpring breaks out at the Root of the Rocks; the Water is much commended for *Ulcers*, and calculous affections of the reins, being taken inwardly. It is alſo often applied outwardly to cure old ſores with very good ſucceſs. (ſaith he) as I have heard thoſe ſay that have tried. There is moreover in this place a Vein of Iron in the Bowels of the Earth (ſaith the ſame Author) whence the water gets its vertue, and a greater heat, which it loſeth by running a great way before it can get out. But by my Authors leave, it cannot be conceived how a vein of Iron ſhould make water ſo hot, ſince we ſee that iron Mines in other places work no ſuch effect upon thoſe Waters that

run through them. I rather conceive there it is some other Vein of Metal, or rather Mineral there, that is the cause of the heat, and likely the same Mineral that causeth the heat of the *Bath-Waters*. Much more I could say, but I am unwilling to enlarge too far upon Plausibilities. Note that this hot Well is not above 12. miles from *Bath*.

On the upper side of these craggy Rocks of *St. Vincent*, are digged out pellucid stones, sexangular (or six cornered) and quadrangular, (or four cornered) which we call *Diamonds*. Some will have them to be *Chrystal*, but (saith Mr. *Johnson*) I think they are rather of the nature of *Fluores*. For (saith he) I remember an Apothecary of *Bristol* told me, the Lord of the place would not have them taken out of the Iron Mine, (which was the womb in which they were formed) because the greater quantity of them make the Metal the more fluid, and apt to melt. And *Agricola* tells us, that *Fluores* are very like *Diamonds*, but not so hard, and that they are used in the melting and trying of Metals, till they be thoroughly tried; for (saith he) they make the matter in the fire much more fluid. And *Kentmannus* in his Catalogue of *Fossils*, reckons *Pellucid Fluores*, sexangular, and like *Crystal*. Of these *St. Vincent Stones*, *Cambden* speaks thus: They are (saith he) so plentiful there, that one may fill a bushel with them; and they are all either four cornered, or six cornered. And saith *Speed*, saving their hardness, they are as good as the *Diamonds* of *India*.

On

On another Rock more Western then *St. Vincents* Rock, there are found *Diamonds* enclosed in hollow and reddish *Flints* after a wonderful manner, and the Earth it self is red there too.

At *Chedder* near *Axbridge*, is a Spring so plentiful of Water presently, that it drives twelve Mills within a quarrer of a mile of the head of it. The reason I suppose is, for that the head of it ariseth in a corner, been encompassed round with steep barren hills, (save onely that way which the stream runs) which pour out all that plenty of Water they contain in their bowels, into this head-spring, where it all meets as in a center, and there rusheth forth in a vast abundance.

In the Isle of *Arhelney* in this shire, was in ancient time a Monastery, which was so contrived, that the whole Frame thereof hanged upon four main Posts made fast in the ground. So saith *Cambden* out of *William of Malmesbury*.

It is credibly reported (saith the same Author *Cambden*) that there was a Walnut-Tree in the holy Church-yard at *Glastenbury*, that did never put out leaf before *St. Barnabas* day, and upon that very day was very rank & full of leaves; but that is now gone, and a young Tree set in this place. Also that there is Hawthorn in *Wirall* Park hard by *Glastenbury*, that upon *Christmas* day sprouteth forth as if it were in *May*. This is reported (saith he) by very credible men that live thereabouts. But it is since (as credibly reported) that the malice and fury of the late wars, hath destroyed this Hawthorn too.

There

There is at *Bristow* a Church, called the Temple, the Tower whereof shakes to and fro when the bells ring, so that it hath divided it self from the rest of the Building from the top to the bottom the breadth of three Fingers, and openeth and shutteth whensoever the bell is rung.

There is about a mile Eastward from *Bath*, a great hill, and on the top of it a very large barren Plain, called *Landsdown*, under which very probably, if search were made, would be found the Mineral or Furnace that heats the *Bath-Water*; but no doubt it lies so deep, that it would not be worth the time, the pains, or the cost to search after it; it seems by the very sight of it to be pregnant of some such matter. *These were my thoughts at first, touching the Bed of the Minerall that heats the Bath; but Dr. Meara of Bristow hath since taught me to lay down that conjecture, by shewing me the Copy of a Letter written by himself in Latine to Dr. Prujean of London, touching a strange thing that happened in July 1659. at the Bath: the abstract of which I shall take the boldness to give the Reader in the Doctors own words, as followeth.*



*Aquis Calidis, 4<sup>o</sup> nonas Aug. 1659*

Amplissimo & Excellentissimo D. D.

F. Prujean, Medicinæ Doctori, &c.

Ampl. & Excel. Domine.

**Q**uod jamdudum factum oportuit; &c. hostiam  
autem adfero tibi; ut auguror, non ingratam for-  
tuitam scilicet detectionem Zetematis non ignobilis  
de causa Caloris Thermarum huius loci, cuius investi-  
gatio clarissimos medicos diu exercuit. Illustrissimus  
D. Fairfax qui cum Coniuge Valetudinari jam Aquis  
Calidis haeret, cum nudius tertius apricandi causa non  
procul ab urbe obequitaret, casu offendit cretam quan-  
dam nivei candoris sparsime terrâ in exiguis cumulis  
emergentem ad instar terra. à talpis egesta. Huius Por-  
tionem domum attulit mihiq; ostendit. Friabilis est,  
spontè ferè in scobem levissimam abit; saporem exhibet  
manifestè acidum sine astrictione; sed paulatim mordi-  
cat, ac inflammatoriam strangulationem in faucibus  
parit, ut non dubitem illam multo chalcantro abunda-  
re, nec esse omnino Arsenici expertem. In frigidam à  
me effusa confestim ebullitionem vehementem excitavit,  
non secus ac si calx esset viva; & pedetentim aqua tam  
insignem calorem concepit, ut ovis citò coquendis pares-  
set. Quum hac Creta in Thermarum vicinia reperia-  
tur, verisimile existimo aquam thermalem hoc igne ca-  
lescere.



lescere. Non ignoro auctores passim Thermarum calorum Sulphuri aut Bitumini ascribere. Verum, quamvis negari non possit Magnam Bituminis & Sulphuris copiam in his scaturiginibus reperiri, iisq; has thermas abunde impregnari convincat cura scabiei, ulcerum, tremoris paralyseos, &c. dubito tamen an eorum aliquod fermenti aquam calefacere nati rationem habere possit, quum utrumq; aciditate, fermentationis opifice, destitutum sit: neutrum verò inquam conjectum fermentationem aut calorem producere possit; & quum eorum consistentia tenax sit & viscida, Bituminis praesertim, ut aqua in minimas eorum particulas expeditè se insinuare non possit; sit ut ad eiusmodi fermentationem sint ineptae: Cujus contrarium in consistentia friabili, & minimè coherente hujus Creta continget. Locis ubi hoc fossile fuit repertum, terra est spongia instar porosa, ut facile appareat illud florem esse sive anoxetis Mineralium fermentantium unà cum Zepato insinuat spiritibus sursum eluctantem. Verum quid in hac obscuritate potius statuendum sit, tuo judicio ego libenter subijcio, gratesq; quam possum maximas humanitati tuae refero &c.

Vir Ampl. & Excel.

Famulus Devotissimus,

Edm. Meara.

The



The English thus in effect :

*Bath, August the 2<sup>d</sup> 1659.*

To t<sup>e</sup> Worshipful his very much honored  
friend *Fran. Prujean D. of Physick, &c.*

W. and H. Sir,

**W**hat I should have done long since, &c.  
The Sacrifice I bring to your Altar, will  
not I conceive be ungratefull. It is the  
strange accidentall discovery of a noble Mystery touch-  
ing the cause of the heat of the Baths here; the search  
into which hath long exercised the most famous Physi-  
cians, the manner of it was thus. The right Honoura-  
ble the Lord Fairfax, who continues still at the Bath  
with his Lady, riding abroad not far from this City  
two days ago, to take the air, by chance found a kind of  
Chalke as white as snow, working here and there out of  
the ground in little heaps, like earth cast up by Moles.  
A piece of this he brought home, and shewed me. It is  
a crumbling matter, and almost of its self turns to a  
small light dust: its tast is manifestly acide without  
astringtion, but by little and little biting, and causing  
an extreame hot strangulation in the mouth, so that I  
am perswaded it hath much Chalcanthus in it, and is  
not altogether without Arsenick. I put it into cold wa-  
ter, and presently it fell a boiling, and bubbling apace,  
just as if it had been quick Lime; and by degrees the  
water

water grew so very hot that it would quickly have boiled an Egge. Now seeing that this Chalk is found near the Bath, I conceive it not unlikely that it is this, that heats the Bath-water, I know very well that Authors generally attribute the heat of Baths to Sulphur or Bitumen. Nevertheless, though it cannot be denyed that there is a great quantity of Bitumen and Sulphur found in these Springs, and the cure of Scabbiness, Ulcers, Trembling, the Palsey, and the like diseases doth evince that the Baths are plentifully impregnated with them; yet I doubt whether either of them hath any thing of a fermentative power in them to heat water, seeing both of them want acidity, the efficient cause of fermentation; and neither of them being put into water can produce any fermentation or heat. And since their consistence is clammy and viscid (especially that of Bitumen) that water cannot readily insinuate it self into the minute particles of them, they must needs be unfit for any such fermentation; The contrary of which will follow upon the crumbling and incoherent consistence of this Chalk. The place where this Fossile was found, is an earth porous like a sponge, so that it plainly appears to be (as it were) the flos, or excrecence of fermenting Minerall, working up out of the Earth with those Spirits, that cause the fermentation. But what to determine, and say positively in this dark riddle, I know not; and therefore humbly submit it to your judgement; returning you most cordial thanks, &c.

W. and H. Sir,

Your most obliged

servant Ed. Meara.

Mend-

*Mendip-Hills* in this shire afford great abundance of Lead. I have heard it reported, that the Lead Ore in these hills is found by a very strange means. There are men; they say, that go up and down upon the hills with forked hazle-wands in their hands near the places, where they suspect the Ore to be; And the nature of the wands is, that when they pass over a place where Ore is, they bend and draw down to the Earth toward the Ore of their own accord; and so they Ore is found. They say likewise, that any hazle wand wil not do it, but that these we speak of, are prepared after a secret manner, the mystery of which is kown but to some very few men there who make a living out of this Art of theirs, by finding out the Ore for the owners. This story is very strange, and unlikely to be true: nor could I have given any credit to it, had I not read in *Sebastian Munsters Cosmography*, that in the Silvermines in *Germany* the place where the Ore lies, and the veins run, is found by this very means of Hazle-wands. And in one of the figures of his Book he gives us the picture of a fellow going along upon the hills, with a forked wand, or stick in his hand, *ad explorandum metallum*. Besides this I remember very well that the *Necromancers* have a kind of rods, called *Mosaicall rods* (which are nothing but Hazle-wands, cut upon such a day of the week, under such a constellation, and prepared with abundance of ceremonies and circum

cumstances partly Sottish, partly impious) the vertue whereof they say, is to find out treasure hidden in the groand.



## WILTSHIRE.

IN the edge of this Shire between *Luckinton*, a great *Badminton* (the seat of my noble Lord and Master, the Lord *Herbert*.) is a place called the Caves; and by some the Giants caves, according to the language of ignorance, fear, and superstition. They are upon the top of a rising hill, a number about 9. And some of them are (or were formerly) cemented with lime. Some of them are deeper and some shallower; some broader and longer then others. They lye altogether in a row. The manner of them is two long stones, set upon the sides, and broad stones upon the top to cover them. The least of these Caves is four foot broad, and some of them are nine or ten foot

foot long. This is, the account, which I have received from some neighbour Gentlemen touching them with which I was fain to content my self, because the Earth and Rubbish is now so fallen in, that ( without digging ) nothing almost can be seen, but the place where they are the cavities being all filled up, and bushes over growing them. I presume these caules are nothing else but the tombes of so many *Saxon* or *Danish Heroes*, ( or it may be *Romans* ) slain in a battle fought not far from the place. The curiosity of some ingenious men ( as it is reported ) within these 40 years, tempted them to dig into it, and make a search for some Antick remains, but they found nothing, but an old Spur, and some few other things not worth the mentioning. The broadness of the stones is not at all strange, since the whole Country hereabout is flatty, and in many places affords stones altogether as large as these.

In this shire is a small Rill, called *Deverill*, which runneth a mile under ground, like as also doth the little River *Mole* in *Surrey*, and the river *Anas* in *Spain*, and the *Niger* in *Africk*.

Near *Warrminster* (saith *Cambden*) is a naturall round, and high copped hill called *Clay Hill*. Why *Cambden* should think this hill to be naturally so, as it is, I know not: Sure I am, there is the like round and high copped hill about a mile Southward from *Aubury* in this shire, called *Silbury-Hill*, in the road from *Bath* to *Marlborough*; which seems not, for many reasons, to be natural, but to have been cast up by mens hands,

hands, and it is not impossible that Clay Hill may have been made by the same means.

At *Joy-Church* was in times past found a Corps 12 foot long, as the tradition runneth, and a Book of very thick Parchment, all written with great Roman Letters, but when the leaves were touched, the mouldred to dust.

In the forrest of *Savernac* grows a kind of sweet Ferne.

Sometimes there breaks out water in the manner of a sudden land flood, out of certain stones (that are like rocks) standing aloft in open fields near the rising of the river *Kener* in this shire, which is reputed by the common people a fore runner of death. That the sudden eruption of Springs in places, where they use not always to run, should be a sign of death, is no wonder. For these usuall eruptions (which in *Kent* we call Nailbourns) are caused by extraneous gluts of rain, or lasting wet weather, and never happen but in wet years (witness the year 1648. when there were many of them) In which years Wheat, and most other grain thrive not well (for a plain reason) and therefore a dearth succeeds the year following. The Country Proverb in *Kent* is, that drought never makes a dearth; Which was sufficiently verified in the years 1654 and 1655. when (after that lasting drought that began in 1651, and continued till 1655.) the price of Wheat descended to 18<sup>d</sup> the bushell, and other grain proportionably: And to our purpose, very remarkable is was in the year 1654, that severall springs, and

rivus



rivulets were quite dried up by reason of the precedent drought, which raged most in 1651, 52, and 53. As the head of the stoure, that riseth near *Elham* in *Kent*, and runs through *Canterbury*, was dry for some miles space; and the like happened to the stream that crosseth the Road way between *Sittingborn* and *Canterbury* at *Ospring* near *Fewersham*, which at other times ran with a plentiful current, but then wholly failed, like the Brooks in *Israel* in the days of *Ahab*.

The *Stonehenge* upon *Salisbury* plain in this shire, is counted the most admirable rarity, that our Island affords. It is in this manner. There are in a pit great stones standing upright. Some being 28 foot high, and 7 foot broad, in three ranks round like a Crown, and overthwart them are laid others with tenants and Mortises. Now the great wonder and question among the learned is, how these stones came hither. For say they, it is not likely that they were *ab initio*, placed here by the God of nature, because the whole Country round for some miles affords not a stone hardly, either great or small. And they seem too vast to be brought hither by waggon or the like carriages. The learned *Cambden* therefore thinks, that they were made there by art, of pure sand, and some unctuous cement, even as those also in *Yorkshire*, because anciently there was such an art of making stone. And *Pliny* saith that the dust of *Puteoli* ( *Puzzole* ) being laid in water becometh stone presently, and that there were Cesterns at

Rome

Rome, made of digged sand, and lime, which were so firm and hard, that they seemed stone. But notwithstanding the authority of this great Scholar, I am clearly of opinion that they are naturall stones, and placed there *ab initio*; Then which I think nothing is plainer. For upon the Downs between *Marleborough* and *Ambury*, not above 20 miles from *Stonehenge*, which Downs are but a continuation, or rather a part of *Salisbury* plain, differing nothing from it but in the un-evenness, are to be found abundance of great stones, commonly called by the Country thereabout, the Gray Weathers; and at *Ambury* in an Orchard there are halfe a dozen, or halfe a score stones little inferiour to the *Stonehenge* for hugeness, some standing upright like the *Stonehenge*, & others lying flat on the ground. And the Country here, like that about the *Stonehenge*, affords not a stone beside. So that unless we will have all these stones to be artificiall, wee must grant the *Stonehenge* to be natural. Now whereas this unstoniness of the Country about which we speak of, seems to some a strong objection against the naturalness of the stones, it is on the contrary, if duly considered, a great argument for it. For what can be more probable, then that Nature could not provide her selfe otherwise of Lapidifick matter enough to make these huge stones of, but by robbing the circumjacent parts. The more of that matter here, the less hereabouts; because nature wanting timber, would fetch it nearest hand. I have no more to add touching the *Stonehenge*, but that near it mens bones are digged up ma-  
ny

ny times. The reason of which is, because it was the ancient burying place for the Kings of the Britons.

About *Sapworth* near *Sharston* are found abundance of stones somewhat like *Cockles*, yet so apparently differing from their shape, that by the very sight of them one may plainly see that they never were true *Cockles*, as some do believe. But of these I shall speak more in *Gloucestershire*.

In the Parish of *Luckington* in the edge of this Shire (formerly mentioned) is a well called *Hancocks-well*, the water whereof is said to be very cold in Summer, and Warm in Winter, and is commended as a singular water for the eyes.

## HANTS HIRE.

**A**T *Portsmouth* in this Shire, they boile Salt out of Salt-water, which is our Bay-Salt, being of a pale or greenish colour; and by boiling it again with an art they have they make it exceeding white.

This Shire is very plentifull for all sorts of commodities, especially for *Kerfies* and *Iron*.

Out of the walls of *Silchester* in this Shire a decayed Town grow huge Oaks (of ten loads a piece

piece, (faith *Stow*) that seem to grow to the very stones, spreading both their tops and their roots exceedingly. Also

Near this Town of *Silchester*, though the land be fruitful enough generally, yet in some places (as it were by Beds) the Soil is nothing near so fruitful as elsewhere, which makes men think, that along these Beds the streets of the old town formerly went. And (which is observable) these unfertile beds do intersect each other, like streets: The conjecture is not unlikely, because the like is reported of the streets of old *Richborough* by *Sandwich* in *Kent*.

The Isle of *Wight* is a wholesom air, and the dwellers very aged. It affords plenty of Corn, and the best Wool, next to that of *Leinster* and *Cotswald*; As also plenty of Conies, Hares, Pheasants, Partridges, &c.

Our *Chroniclers* tell us, that in the year 1176. in the Isle of *Wight*, it rained a shower of blood for two hours together.

At *Wickham* in this Shire are Medicinal Waters.

It is reported, that about *Portsmouth* is a race of small Dogs, like *Beagles*, that they use there to hunt *Moles* with, which they hunt at their proper natural Game.



## BERKSHIRE.

**A**T *Finchamstead* in this Shire, in the yeare 1100. as Writers say, a Well boiled up with streams of blood, and continued so 15. dayes together, whose Waters madered all others where they came. A story not incredible, though very strange; because we read of several the like stories touching Fountains in other Countreys, in Authors of good credit.

In this Shire is one of the fruitful Vales of England for Corn, called the *Vale of White Horse*.

About the year 1348. (saith *Cambden*) being presently after the *Conjunction of Saturn & Mars*, in *Capricorn*, was a very great Plague over all Europe, and then was *Wallingford*, (being a bigger and more considerable Town then now it is) almost dis-peopled with it. The *Conjunction of Saturn and Mars*, that *Cambden* means, was 1342. ~~6000~~ in February, and it happened in 25. degrees of *Capricorn*; but in my opinion, it ushered its pretended effect at too large a distance to entitle it self the cause of it. Nor can I believe so small a cause could produce so great an effect; conjunctions of *Saturn* and *Mars* happening constantly every two years, and sometimes (though

(though very rarely) three of them happening in one year, (as in the year 1640. in the last face of *Libra*, and (if *Pitatus* have calculated right) in the year 1542. in the first face of the pestilent sign *Virgo*) without any such extraordinary effects succeeding them. And which is as observable as any thing, in the year 1578. was a Conjunction of *Saturn* and *Mars* in 23. deg. of *Capricorn*, (but two degrees short of the Conjunction, 1342.) and yet the following years were not guilty of any extravagant Mortalities. Therefore I conceive it will not be amiss to ascribe rather this black effect to something nearer 1348. viz. to the conjunction of *Saturn* and *Jupiter* in 1345. in 18. deg. of *Libra* (which *Astrologers* reckon the house of *Saturn*) a Conjunction of greater importance and influence, and so more likely to produce a greater effect. And yet I would not be too bold to fasten it upon this Conjunction of *Saturn* and *Jupiter* neither (till further enquiry be made) because other Conjunctions of *Saturn* and *Jupiter* in *Libra* have passed over more lightly. Unless we wil say that there may besome particular venom about the 18th. degree of *Libra*, which other degrees of *Libra* farther off are not infected with. And indeed in the year 553. we are told by *Alsted*, that there raged so horrid a plague at *Constantinople*, that there died 5000. in a day, and sometimes 10000. in a day, which was not above two years after a conjunction of *Saturn* and *Jupiter* in 19. degrees of *Libra*, which happened 1551.

*Cambden* takes notice, that abundance of *Fern* grows about *Reading*, a Plant that loves gravelly and sandy places, such as that Countrey is all about.

## S U R R E Y.

**T**His County is commended for a healthful air; the cause is its sandiness, and being an Inland County.

Under *Holme Castle*, standing upon a Hill of Grit or crumbling Stone, is a great Vault of Arched Work. *Architects* tel us, that Arched Work is the more firm, by how much the greater weight lies upon it.

The River *Mole* runs above a mile under ground and at the place where it falls into the ground groweth abundance of Box naturally. Inquiry might be made by *Herbarists*, whether the Earth be not of the same nature and composition, where the same Vegetables grow naturally.

Near *Non-such* is a Vein of Potters Earth much commended, of which *Cruibles* are made for melting of Gold, &c.

The rising of a *Bourn* or stream near *Croydon* (as the common people hold) presageth death, as the Plague; and it hath been observed to fall out so. The rising of *Bourns* in places where they run not alwayes, we have before proved to be caused by great wet years, which (ac-  
cording

cording to *Hippocrates* observation) are generally the most sickly; and if they prove hot, as well as wet, (because heat and moisture are the greater disposers to putrifaction) they prove also malignant, and for the most part pestilential. And the reason why the using of this *Born* doth not always preface the Plague, is because all wet years do not preface hot.

"It is observed, that few or no Rivers do ebb and flow so far up from the Sea, as the River of *Thames*, which flows up as high as *Richmond* in this Shire: The reason of which is very plain, depending chiefly upon two very great causes. The first is the coming in of the flood, at both ends of this Island, that is, from the Westward by the Cape of *Cornwall*, and from the Northward, by the North end of *Scotland*, which (as our Books of Navigation tell us) meet at a Rock called the *Gallopier* (which lyes right against the mouth of the River of *Thames*, between it and the coast of *Holland* and *Flanders*, about the mid-way) with very great noise and rippling: Now the two floods (as I said) meeting here, must needs hinder the course of each other, and by consequence make the Sea swell much in this place, and so easily discharge it self by a strong flood into the neighboring River of *Thames*, lying so conveniently for its reception. The other cause is the motion of the Earth from West to East, which carrying the banks of the *Thames* along towards the place where the mouth of it was but now, must needs (as it were) draw the Water into it, by leaving it behind. And perad-



venture upon enquiry, it will be found that the floods run more strongly ( for this reason ) up into those Rivers that discharge themselves into the sea on the East side of a great Island or Continent, then those on the West side ; and that where there are Currents or Streams that run thwart on upon a shore, they beat more violently (in calm weather) upon Eastern, then Western shores. But whether this be the reason why on the East side of the Continents of *Asia*, *Africa*, and *America*, there be many more small Islands, then on the Western side of those Continents, (for so our Maps inform us, witness *Japan*, the *Philippine Islands*, the *Moluccos*, the *Maldives*, the two *Javas*, *Sumatra*, *Madagascar*, &c. on the Eastern side of *Asia* and *Africk*, and the great swarm of Islands, called, the *Summer Islands*, (to which we may ad those vast shoals on the coast of *Brasil*, (on the Eastern side of *America*) or whether it be from the constant Intra-tropical Eastwind that galls the Lee-shores, and hath in long process of time carved them so curiously into Islands, is hard to say at present, but must be left to a more through disquisition.

The Waters of *Ebbesham* in this shire are very famous, and much frequented for their Medicinal virtue, and purging by siege. These Waters without doubt receive their Tincture from some Mineral-Mass that lurks in the neighboring hills (it may be under *Banstead-Downs*) and that the bowels of the earth hereabout are pregnant of some such matter, seeming by that Cruible-Clay (mentioned but now) found about

*Non-*

*Non-fuch*, which (as I am told) blushes something like *Terra Lemnia* in some places.

It is reported, that on the hills by *Farnham* are Snake-stones to be found, of the form (but not of the colour) of those at *Alderley* in *Glostershire*.

## S U S S E X.

**T**His is a Maritime County, and therefore no wonder it affords plenty of Fish and Sea-Fowl. The Soil is rich, the Land low, and the Ways deep. It was anciently in a manner an entire Wood, being part of the great Wood *Andradswald*, which was 120 miles long, and 30 miles broad.

In this County are many Iron Mines, but the Iron here made is more brittle then Spanish Iron. Also,

Here they make Glass, but it is neither very good, nor very clear.

The place at *Battel*, where the fatal battle was fought between *William the Conqueror* and *Harold*, looks of a reddish colour after rain. I cannot think it to be the Conquerors Livery that it still wears. No doubt that was worn out long since, both colour and Cloath, unless that kind of ground be more retentive of

of stains then others; or hath better luck then the places where the great Battels of our late warres have been fought, where no signs remain at all of the Tragedies acted there. Certainly it is nothing but the natural colour of the earth, which it had before that Battel; for all men know, that in several parts of England the earth is more then reddish, as in some places of the Weald of Kent, and particularly at a place in the lower side of the Parish of Sutton-Valence.

The Downs in Sussex by the sea-coast, because they stand upon a fat Chalk, or Marle, are abundantly fertile of Corn. Downs generally are barren, because either they were ab initio, of a hungry Clay, or else if they consisted of light loose earth (which is generally more fertile then other sorts of earth) yet it is continually washed away by great rains into the Valleys. I mean the upper face of the earth before it is rotted enough to be fat, and disposed for generation. But where downs and descents (as these we speak of) consist of a fat clummy fast, Chalk or Marle, the great shoots of rain have not power to moulder it so fast, and wash it away into the Valleys, that being fat & fertile at their first Creation, it is easie for them to continue so. It is observed in Gloucestershire, (and it may be is as true in all Clayie Countreys) that the hills, and sides of hills are the most wet and clayie. The cause doubtless is the same with this, to wit, That the rain that fall, wash by degrees the uppermost mould down into the Valleys, because it is more loose and light; but leaves the under clay behind, because more stiff and fast, and so very hardly to be tempted away. And this I suppose to be the reason why waters running over meer Clay, or issuing from it, are hungry, and clear, as we find in our  
lard-

land-springs about Badminton, because the Clay is unapt to mix with the water. And I suppose for the same reason, that if Downs consisting of light loose earth, were ploughed, they would in process of time (by constant ploughing) lose much of their unevenness, and become plain, (I mean where there are no more enclosures to stop the concourse of the washed mould) whereas lying unploughed, they continue with very little alteration. But for the same reason Clayie Downs ploughed are not likely to suffer any great change.

At Selsey in this shire (saith Camden) are great stores of Cockles and Lobsters; probably the shore there is rocky and hard, which kind of places Lobsters and Cockles delight in.

In the year 1250. the Town of Winchelsea was swallowed up of the sea. The like fate befel the Lands of Earl Godwin, which were (as we read) once firm Land; but then by a sudden inundation of the sea devoured (and turned into Godwin Sands.) As also were at the same time a great part of the Low-Countreys, and some part of Scotland, as Hector Boethius saith.

KENT



## KENT.

**T**His County being a kind of *Peninsula*, the Sea and the *Thames* encompassing the greatest part of it; the air is not very clear, because of vapors continually rising. Nor is it so cold (saith *Speed*) as other parts of *England* are: Which must be understood of the low places near the sea, where the air is not onely not so cold as in other parts of *England*, but also as in other parts of *Kent*, as appears by the sooner dissolving of the snow in Winter, upon a thaw in these places, then in the Upland and hilly parts of the County, where it many times in Winter snows, when in the low *Maritime* places nothing falls but rain. My self hath several times observed it so, and I belive the like difference may be observed between the *Upland* and *Maritime* places in other Counties.

No Mines in *Kent*, but a little Iron about *Tunbridge*.

The Medicinal Wells at *Tunbridge* are sufficiently known. To render a reason of which, we need say no more, then that they are made so Medicinal by issuing from, or running through the Iron Mines there. And that which induces me the more to think so, is because the Waters are so good for Splenitick Diseases, in which Pouder of Steel is so often prescribed. I do almost believe, could the truth

truth of it be well searched out, it will hold as an Universal Maxim, that wheresoever the Waters are Medicinal, there are near the place Iron Mines, or some of the baser Metals; and that wheresoever the hot Springs rise, (as at the *Bath* here) there are near the place Mines of Silver, Tin, or some of the purer sort of Metals. For we all know, that in *Devonshire* and *Cornwall* the Tin Mines are, where also Silver hath been found, as it hath likewise been in *Wales*: Nor is it impossible that the like Metals might be found nearer *Bath*. So much is already certain, that the Coals that are digged about *Bristol*, and several parts in *Gloucestershire*, have Metalline veins (many of them) running along them like Gold, as is aforesaid in *Cornwall*. And it is very observable also, that in the Confines of *Germany*, between it and *Helvetia*, and in sundry places of *Saxony*, and the parts thereabout, there are as abundance of hot Baths, so also abundance of Silver Mines.

It is reported that at *Egerton* near *Lenham*, is a Spring, whose Water turns Wood into Stone.

Three miles directly South from *Tunbridge*, near *Fram*, in the very edge of *Suffex*, in a white sandy ground, are diverse huge craggy stones, of strange forms, whereof two of the greatest stand so close together, and yet are divided with so strait a Line, as one would think they had been sawn asunder.

A small Rivulet of *Medway* loseth it self under ground, and riseth again at a Parish called *Loose*, not far from *Cocks Heath*.

There

There are three ridges of Hills in Kent: The first is that, that runs by *Baxtey, Dettling, Hollingborn, &c.* and is called, *Health without Wealth*. The second is that that runs along by *Sutton-Malsom, Botton-Malherfe, &c.* and is called, *Health and Wealth*. The third is that, that runs by *Tenterden*, and is called, *Wealth without Health*: Names very proper for them, and the reason very plain why they are so.

*August the 4th. 1585,* after a very violent tempest of Thunder and Rain, at *Mottingham* in this Shire, eight miles from *London*, the ground suddenly began to sink, and three great Elmes growing upon it, were carried so deep into the earth, that no part of them could any more be seen. The hole left, (saith the story) is in compass 80. yeards about, and a Line of 50. fathom plummed into it, finds no bottom. Also,

*December the 18. 1596.* A mile and half from *Westram*, Southward (which is not many miles from *Mottingham*) two Closes lying together, separated with a hedge of hollow Ashes, there was found a part thereof 12. Perches long, to be sunk six foot and a half deep; the next morning 15. foot more; the third morning 80. foot more at the least, & so daily that great Trench of ground, containing in length about 80. Perches, and in breadth 28. began with the Trees and Hedges on it, to loose it self from the rest of the ground lying round about it, and withall, to move and shoot Southward day and night for eleven days. The ground of two Water-pits, the one six foot deep of Water, the other 12. at the least, and about four

four Perches over in breadth, having sundry tufts of *Alders* and *Aspes* growing in the bottoms, with a great Rock of Stone under them, were not only removed out of their places, and carried toward the South, at least four Perches a-piece, but with all mounted aloft, and become hills, with their sedge, flags, and black mud upon the tops of them, higher then the face of the Water (which they had forsaken) by 9. foot, and in the place from which they are removed, other ground, which lay higher, is descended, receiving the Water which lyes upon it. Moreover in one pace of the plain field, there is a great hole made by sinking of the earth to the depth of 30. foot at the least, being in-breath in some places two Pearches over, and in length five or six pearches. Also there is a hedge 30. pearches long, carryed Southward with his Trees seven pearches at the least. And sundry other sinkings there be in diverse places, one of 60. foot, another of 47. and another of 34. foot. By means of which confusion it is come to pass, that where the highest Hills were, there be the deepest Dales, and the lowest Dales are become the highest grounds. The whole measure of breaking was at the least nine Acres, seven days works, and four Pearches, &c. To this effect is this strange story related in our Chronicles, with the other of *Mottingham*, both which we have no reason to doubt the truth, since of late years; namely *Aug* 1657. we have had a fresh example of an Earth-sinking at *Bickley* in *Cheshire*, of which we shall speak in its place, and which answers to that of *Mottingham*. And our Chronicles afford us two very



ry remarkable stories of Earth-removing, one in *Herefordshire*, 1571. *Marcle-Hill*, and another at *Armitage* in *Dorsetshire*, of which we have already spoken. Now for Earth sinking, I conceive I have found out the cause (in case the Countrey about *Mottingham* and *Bickley* be loose and sandy) and I imagine it to be this: The Springs that run to and fro in the body of the earth, the deeper they run, the more they are encreased in quantity; and as they run thus, if the earth be loose or sandy, they must needs wash and carry away the sand or loose earth with them by degrees, and so make their passages bigger and bigger, both in breadth & depth. For the earth being hollowed and vaulted by this means, the sieling (as I may call it) of this Vault, (being as we conceived sandy and loose) moulders and drops down by degrees into the stream under it, which as it falls, still clears it away; and thus at length it is not improbable, that it becomes a very spacious and deep hollownes. Now while this hollownes continues thus encreasing, sometimes little, sometimes much, according as the temper of the year augments, or diminishes the bulk & force of the waters) there comes at length a great glut of Rain, which exceedingly encreasing the waters, and by consequence the violence of these subterranean streams, they wash away now much more of the sides of the Vault (this little River overflowing its ordinary banks) then at other times, and withall the weight of the incumbent earth, (that I mean which lyes right over this cavity) is much augmented by the extream wet. So that the weight being much more, and the strength to sup-  
port

port the mass of Earth much less, I cannot conceive what can follow hereupon, but a sinking of the incumbent Earth to the very bottom, how deep soever it be; Sometimes by degrees, and sometimes all at once, according to the nature of the Earth, which in some places I confess, though sandy, yet may not be meer sand; And it may be the air within the vault gives not place so quickly, as the earth hath a desire to descend, but must be squeezed out by little and little. Further I conceive, that after great wets, the strong tendency of the waters downward altogether, presseth in the air in the vault on all sides, and so begets a conflict between the water and the air, the air struggling outrageously to free it self, which conflict begets a confusion, and this confusion must needs loosen the incumbent earth, and so much contribute also to its falling in, if it be loose and sandy. And I am of opinion, that whensoever the truth comes to be found out, it will appear, that this tumultuary tendency of waters downward (after great wets) pressing in the air (as I said) in hollow places of the Earth, begets a conflict, and that a concussion which is that we call an Earthquake. For so much is truer then truth it self, that Earthquakes always succeed great wets, or a sudden glut, and tempest of rain in the time of a great drought, See a King. Which commonly falls all in one place, or Country, and none in another, and is for the most part much more large and pouring, then in dripping years for a plain reason; Witness that horrid thunder-shower, that poured down so  
G much

much rain in so short a time and within so little compass of ground, and made so great a flood in the Parish of great *Badminton* in *Glocestershire*, *June* 1652. in the middle of the greatest drought, that our age hath known. Besides it is further to be considered, that sandy places doth more easily let in the rain into the bowells of the Earth, so that it distills not down by drops, but presently, and almost altogether; nor can it mix with the sand to make dirt, and evaporate upward from whence it came (as rain doth in most sorts of earth) but descends more entire, little or none of that wet that falls, returning, unless the Sun shine very forcibly out, immediately after the rain, and then it cannot draw much neither. And I partly believe, that those little sinkings of Earth in sandy ways in wet years (called *Quicksands*) such as I have seen one towards the upper end of *Bocton-streer*, in the road between *Sittingbourne*, and *Canterbury*, and others in many other places) are but the effects of some of the smaller sorts of these causes; and the reason why they are rather in road-ways, then other places, is onely because of the great weight of carriages, that sends the pendulous earth going. Thus far I have ventured at the cause of earth sinking, and would attempt as much at earth removings, were I but sure, that *Machley-hill* in *Herefordshire*, *Westram* in *Kent*, and *Armitage* in *Dorsetshire* were all of a fat and clammy soile, and not very stiffe; (for then I think I have much to say to the cause of those too) but till I am sure, I shall be silent, though some of *Herefordshire* have told me, that *Mareley-hil* is such as I would have it to be.

In

In *Tenderden-steeple* some where about the *Belfrey* ( I have been told ) there is a stone, which as the Rain falls upon it immediately out of the air, or drops down from the stones on the side of the steeple about it, grows in a matter of five or six years very manifestly, and having been pared away with an Instrument, grows up again as high as before.

Upon the shores of the Isle of *Shepey* are found weighty stones, out of which *Brimstone* and *Copras* are tryed by *Minster* in the same Island, by boiling them in a furnace made for the purpose.

Nigh *Feversham*, & likewise in other parts of *Kent* are pits of great depth (saith *Cambden*) narrow at the mouth, and very wide below, which have distinctions of rooms and Chambers, as it were with severall pillars of Chalk to support them; out of which he thinks, the old *Britans* dug Chalk to manure their Land withall, as *Pliny* also saith: And which is observable, and much to the purpose, they are not found but in Chalky and Marly soile. The pits *Cambden* means, I suppose, are the great pit near the Town, called *Hagdale-Pit*; The great Chalk pit joining to the Road-way, between *Feversham* and *Bocton*; There is another too on the right hand of the way going up from the Town toward *Shelwich*, near *Copton* Farme-house; Another between *Davington* Church, and *Stone* Church; to which we may adde one or two great pits in the parish of *Norton*, in a Field not far from the *Beacon-hill*, which are very deep, and yet very narrow to the top.

Whereſoever the ſtreets went in *Richborow* (an ancient Town near *Sandwich*, long ſince deſtroyed and gone) the corn that is now there ſowed, in thoſe places is but thin. And it is reported that the cement of the old walls is as hard as the ſtone.

Great ſtore of *Sampire* grows on the cliſts between *Deale* and *Dover*.

The Weald for wood, *East Kent* for Corn, *Rumney* for meadow, *Tenham* for an Orchard, *Sheppey* & *Reculver* for Wheat, *Thanet* for Barley, and *Hedcorn* for the brood of fat, big, and commended Capons.

At *Dengenefs* for a mile and more grow abundance of Holly trees naturally among nothing but Beach and Pebbles. And weſtward from *Dengenefs* among the Beach grow peafon naturally like Cluſters of Grapes together, in taſt very like our field peafon. The like to which as alſo a kind of Hops do grow naturally among a great deal of Beach and Pebbles in the Marſhes between the Iſle of *Thanet* and *Sandwich*, about a mile (or better) from the Town, as I was told by an inhabitant of *Sandwich*.

*Cambden* ſuppoſeth, that *England* hath formerly been united to the continent about *Calais*; becauſe in the middle between *Calais* and *Dover* the Sea is but 25 fathom deep (even as between *Sicily* and *Italy* it is but 80 paces, which Iſland likewise hath anciently been thought to have been united to *Italy*) but on both ſides of it the Sea is much deeper. Moreover in the very middle between *Calais* & *Dover* is one bank called *Frowen-ſhoale*, which

which at a low water is scarce three fathom deep, but within halfe a league of it to the Southward it is 27 fathom deep, and to the Northward 25. Likewise the clifts are alike high about *Calais* and *Dover*; and of the same matter and colour. My opinion is, that the Shallowness in that place may peradventure be caused rather from the narrowness of the Sea there, and its being so near the place where the two floods meet; that come in at both ends of the Island (of which I spake before) & so by degrees work up the sand, gravel, stones, &c here in heaps, which they wash from the ground, as they come along; and not from having been the *Isthmus* of *England* formerly. For I have been told by credible men, that between the Isle of *Shepey* and the continent of *Kent*, at the place where the two floods meet, that come in at both ends of the Island, there is the like shelve or shallow place, that lyes cross from the continent to the Island, which no doubt is caused by the same means. But as to the likeness of the cliffs on both sides; I am able to say nothing of it.

It is reported that at *Sellenge* and *Egerton*, about 40 years ago were medicinall waters.

*Cranebrook* hath the name for good Beer.

It is reported, that there are no moles in the Isle of *Shepey*, and that if they be carryed over thither (as it hath been tryed) they will not live.

The Isle of *Thanet* is all Chalky, and hath the name for the best Barley. Query, Whether Chalky land be not the most naturall soyle for Barley.

*Tenhams*, and the parishes in that leuell, are very unhealthfull. The reason is, because they stand low, and among the marshes. And another reason may be, because the earth there is very rotten, and quagmire, and therefore is apt to mix with the Spring-waters that issue from it, and corrupt them.

The River *Stoure*, that runs through *Canterbury*, breeds the best Trouts in the South-East parts of England.

At *Boxley Abbey*, about two miles from *Maidstone*, is a Spring, the water whereof (as it is reported) in nine days will turn sticks, and such like wood into stone.

In the Parish of *Lewesham*, about six miles from *London*, is a Medicinall water. It was found about the year 1651, and hath been since much frequented. Taken in a good plentiful quantity, it purgeth gently by urine and siege. It riseth on a great Common, upon the descent of the highest hill in that part of *Kent*, and is supposed to issue from an Aluminous earth.

I spake before of the earth sinking at *Mottingham*. I have since viewed the place, and find the Country to be all a gravelly loose earth, according to my *Hypothesis*. The hole where the earth sunk in, lyes in a water-course, and is since by degrees filled up with that sledge that great rains bring into it.



## GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

**T**He hilly part of this County (called *Castwald*) abounds with fine wool, small sheep which are long-necked, and square of bulk, and bone) and hath a very pleasant air: The low parts of it are exceeding fruitful and rich in Corns, so that (as *Cambden* saith) it returns an hundred for one. The parts about *Bristol* afford great store of Coals that take as New Castle Coal doth, but yet differ from it, as I have already said. The Northern parts of it are as abundant in fruit; And the Apple trees and Pear trees that grow in every hedge, are not grafted, but grow naturally, by reason the ground is so inclined to bear fruit; Yet the fruit for beauty and tast far exceeds all others, and will keep till a new supply come; Yea some of them will not wither or rivell in a whole year. The part of *Gloucestershire* beyond the River of *Seavern* (called the *Forrest of Dean*) is stored with Iron Mines.

*Speed* tells us further, that this Shire is very full of Vineyards, which thrive very happily, and bear very pleasant Grapes; so that the Wines made of them are little inferiour to the French Wines.

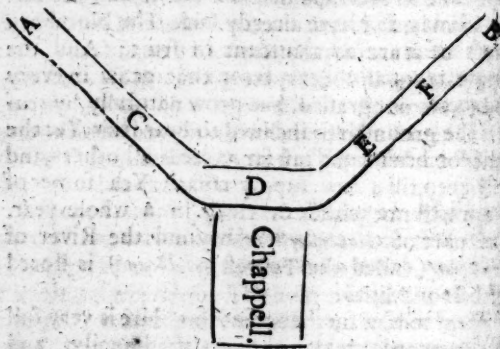
The River of *Seavern* is very swift, and there is a daily rage and fury of its waters, raising up the Sands and Mire from the bottome, winding and driving



driving them upon heaps, & sometimes overflowing her banks. And the force of this rage is such, that it will overturn a Vessell, if it take it on the side.

*Tewkesbury* hath a name for excellent mustard.

About the Quire in the Cathedrall Church of *Gloucester* in an Arch of it, there is a wall built in form of a Semicircle full of corners; and if a man speak with a very low voice, at the one side, or end of it, and another lay his ear to the other, being a good way distant, he may very easily hear every syllable, the other speaks. This whispering place I have seen, and surveighed very carefully. It is in the form, that I have described here.



ACDEFB is the passage of the voice, or whispering place. At A and B are the two persons to stand that whisper to each other. At D the middle of the passage is a door and entrance into

a Chappel, with Window Cases on each side of the door, if I remember right. The Chappel is in the place I describe it. And to my best remembrance there are one or two places open upward in the roof of the passage. My opinion is, that the Chappel standing so in the middle, much conduceth to the conveying of the sound so entirely, which is helped by the open places in the roof I speak of. For they seem to draw in the voice, whelshewould not so wel enter into that narrow passage, but reverberate back into that broad open place, before the whispering entry. And one thing which makes me think the Chappel doth a great part of the Work, is, for that we see in Viols, Lutes, and other Musical instruments, there are holes cut into the belly of the instrument, just under the playing or striking place, which we find by experience do much augment the noise of the notes, and make them more audible. But in this, and most other things, I say, I give but my poor judgement, submitting it to the censure of the learned.

At *Stroud* (commonly called *Stroud-water*) they dye Scarlet; the Water there (as they say) having a peculiar property to give the right tincture, which other waters generally want. So much variety there is in Water, according to the several Earths that they pass through.

No Snakes or Adders to be found about *Badminton*; I suppose the cause to be the barrenness and coldness of the Land thereabout; for Snakes are bred out of rich, fat, and hot mould, or mud,

mud ( whence we find them commonly about ditches, and low, rich, shady grounds, lurking under long grass ) of which this Countrey affords no great plenty. Besides being an open Countrey, it wants that shade and shelter that they delight in.

In the fields about *Badminton* are found many times *Cylindrical* stones, long and round, like a mans finger. The inner part of them is like flint, somewhat pellucid, and of a sad brown colour, and it is enclosed round on the outside with a whitish *Putamin*, like Flint too.

About *Badminton* also are several holes (called Swallow-holes) where the Waters (after any great shower of rain, or in Winter, when their Springs run) fall into the bowels of the earth, and are seen no more, nor is it known whether ever they rise again. The most remarkable of them are one or two, in the way between *Badminton* and *Alton Farfeild*. All that I can say to them yet, is, that in a Clayie and flatty Countrey, if there be any inlets and passages into the Earth by reason of its discontinuity here and there, they are likely enough to be kept open, because such kind of earth is not apt to moulder with wet, and fall in, and so dam them up.

At *Alderley* (saith *Speed*) a Countrey Parish 8 miles from the *Severn*, upon the hills, to this day are found Cockles, Periwinkles, and Oysters of solid stone. This place being but four or five miles from *Badminton*, the seat of that noble Family, that I have the honor to be a ser-

vant

yant to, I have very diligently examined, and found it thus: The place where the stones are found, is partly a Sand, and partly a Clay; Cocks I found, but neither Periwinkles nor Oysters: But though I found not them, yet instead of Periwinkles I found many Serpentine stones (or Snake stones, as they call them thereabout) flat, resembling the banner of *Dan*, as it's given in the Genealogies at the beginning of some of our *English* Bibles. And instead of Oysters, I found *Scallops*, perfect fragments of them I mean (pardon the seeming contradiction) which I conceive had been broken with Ploughing: They were exactly ridged in rows at certain short distances, just like a *Scallop-shell*. Moreover, an honest inhabitant of the parish bestowed upon me a whole *Scallop*, that is somewhat bigger then the ordinary size of *Scallops*, with a perfect shell upon it, ridged (as is before said) very naturally, and having an irregular piece of stone growing to it. No man that looks upon it, would at first sight imagine it to be other then a true *Scallop-shell*, so curiously it represents it in its colour, and onely exceeds it a little (as I said) in its dimension. Besides these, I found other figured stones, some resembling very much the *Muscle-fish*; but they were somewhat bigger too, then what they were like; and others like the Kernel of an *Almond*, long, and somewhat roundish, with two edges opposite to each other, and they were streaked and cranked like a *Cockle-shell*. Other little stones I found, somewhat bigger then a *Hazel-Nut*, and some much less, that  
were

were cranked in like a Cockle-shell, but deeper, and not so thick together as a Cockle-shell: Some of them did resemble also the Cockle very near, others not so much; yet all did so sufficiently differ from the form of it, at the supposed opening place of the Cockle, that a man may easily judge that they never were Cockles; for there the two shells were bent up in the fashion almost of a blobber-lip. And that which is not unworthy our consideration, is, that they are few of them like one another; some being flatter, others more round; some have the lip more turned up, others less. They have upon them a whitish shining shell, and within they are (for some I have broken) a mass of little particles, of a pellucid matter (somewhat like Alabaster) grown hard together. The Countrey hereabout for some miles round upon the hills, affords many of these last sort of stones; for I have found them in gravel that was digged in *Badminton*, and sometimes I have found of them growing to great irregular stones about the Countrey. I have been told that about *Sapworth* by *Sharston*, there are abundance of them to be found. I found one of them in *Witney Town*, seven Miles from *Oxford*, upon a paved Causey: How it came there, I know not, nor had I time to enquire whether the Countrey thereabout afford any store, or any more of them. The Snake-stones I spoke of, have a perfect *spina* running all along the back of them (as those also at *Keynsham* have; but those at *Keynsham* are much bigger then these at *Alderley*, and lye in another manner)

ner) with little ridges (like ribs) on both sides of them, all along from the head without, to the tail within, in the form almost of a *Roman S.* and in this they agree with those of *Keinsham* too. Further, the outer part of this snaky wreath is divisible, and may be knocked off from the inner part of the wreath to which it is joined, without taking from it, or losing to it; so that it is not one entire Stone throughout, but is within, as it seems without, separable with a little violence; and in this too they agree with the Snake-stones of *Keinsham*. Lastly, on the outside they have a kind of skale, thin and shining, as if it were a little polished, in some whitish like *Alabaster*; in others brownish, of the colour of a dried Eel-skin; and in others again of a dirty yellow colour, inclining something to red. My opinion of all these stones, for many reasons, is that they are not Shel-fish petrified (as some would have them to be, who think that upon the ebb of the deluge these fish were left upon the tops of hills, and turned to stone by degrees, wanting their former moisture to keepe them soft within, like other Shelfish.) For first, they are all solid within, without any cavity, even the Muscles, Cockles, and Scallops. Again, some of the Muscles, Cockles, and Scallops, are a great deal bigger then true ones. Thirdly, the Snake-stones are without heads generally, if not all; for as for those appearances of heads which some fancy at the outer end of some of them, I take them rather for irregular pieces of stone, and as it were attempts of Nature to continue the

the wreath further on; but as all works of Nature are finite, she being here at her *Ne-plus-ultra*, is not able to produce what she would, but doth what she can toward it, which is but an imperfect Lump, even as a weak Womb produces a Moon-Calf. Fourthly, some of these Mock-fishes have but half their shapes, the other part being an irregular and deformed Mass, Nature as it were failing in her Workmanship, for want of fit matter in that place. Nay one of the Snake-stones I gathered, hath a Segment (as I may call it) of another less Snake so joined to the side of it, that there can be no room for the other side of the Segment, but in the very body and bulk of the greater. And one of the Cockles I gathered (being indeed but halfe a Cockle, nothing but one Cockle-shel, with a lump of irregular stony matter in the cavity of it) hath within the hollow of the shel almost joining to it, another little Cockle-shel peeping (as it were) out of that irregular stony matter I speak of. Fifthly, these stones are not so absolutely like those creatures they would seem to represent petrified as they should be; for there is an apparent difference between the *Muscle stone*, and the true *Muscle* of the sea, both in the shape of the stones, and in the cranking of it; for it is cranked like a *Cockleshel* almost, which the *Muscle-shel* of the sea is not, unless perhaps there be some such *Muscle* of the sea which I never saw. Again, the stone which I said was like the kernel of an *Almond*, I know not what fish or creature to liken it to, unless it be a Snag without  
shel,

shel (such as are in *Peason*, and in Gardens at time of year) when his horns are drawn in, and his body is shrunk up, and yet it doth not so perfectly resemble that neither, because this is cranked on the side; and that is not. And yet further, those other little stones which I said were less then *Cockles*, with a lip turned up, are neither exactly like *Cockles*, nor any other Shel-fish that I have seen, but seem rather to be as natural stones, as Flints or Pebbles. But that which wil put the matter quite out of doubt, is, that the *Scallop* which I said was given me, and which I have now by me, and intend to preserve for the satisfaction of the curious, is most manifestly different from the true Shel-fish of the Name; for whereas the true *Scallop* hath one shel concave, and the other flat, both the pretended shels of this *Scallop-stone* are concave. So that unless there be a kind of *Scallop* which I never saw yet, this one stone is able to convince any man that these stones are not petrificatiuous. Natural there is no doubt they are, and such as now they are from the Creation; but how they came to put on such strange and imitating figures, is a secret we dare not meddle with, til we have satisfied Sir *Francis Bacons* mind, by writing a compleat History of *Nature* and *Art*. I onely forget to tel you, that all these stones are found near the surface of the Earth; and if you dig any depth, you find no more of them; and that they are also to be found upon the Hil between *Hilsley* and *Upton* (about a mile from *Alderley* Southward) in the horse-way.

In



In the Parish of *Great Badminton*, in a Field there, called, *Twelve Acres*, the Husbandmen do often times plough up, and find iron Bullets as big as Pistol bullets, and some almost as big as Musket bullets:

At *Tormanton*, (commonly called *Tormarton*) by *Sodbury* is a Quarry of Free-stone, and several others there are about the Countrey. All kinds of stone are not to be found in one kind of earth, but several soils afford several kinds of stone. Chalky Countreys afford Flint; Sandy (if they find any) a great rough stone, generally (I think always) of the colour of the Sand where it is; *Loamy*, a kind of lightish red bastard Flint, such as is to be found in many places in the road way between *Rocheſter* and the top of *Boxley-hill*; Gravelly Pebbles, and clayie Countreys, in some places afford hard, rough, whitish stone, and in other places Free-stone, according to the difference of the Clay. It seems every soil is most apt to afford that stone that is most of kin, and nearest of nature to it. And therefore it may be, it is the less wonder that Chalky ground should afford Flint, because Flint (like all pellucid substances) being pulverized, becomes almost perfectly white like Chalk. I have no more to add of the Free-stone of *Tormarton*, but that if it be nearly viewed with a diligent eye, it seems to be nothing but an infinite number of little Grains of Gravel cemented together into a Mass, which I think will be found true of all Free-stone

At *Lassington* a village about a mile and a halfe from *Gloucester* West or Northwest, on the side of a hill, a little below the brow of it, in the high way are to be found little Star-stones, the Greeks call them *Astroites*. They are thin (about the thickness of a halfe-Crown,) flat and five pointed like a Star or Mullet in Heraldry, onely the points of them are not sharp, but a little roundish, and most of them are not so big as a single halfe penny, though some are very near as big. Further they are of a grayish colour, and on both sides curiously graved (as it were by art with a fine graving instrument, & a neat hand) as if there were a little Mullet within the great. You shall find many of them joined together (flat side to flat side) in little Columnes, or Prismes an inch long or more, halfe a score or more of them together, and so fast, that you cannot sever them without breaking; though they are distinguished with a perfect line. I believe they were all knit together in such Columnes at first, (even those which are found single) and that they were severed by frost, or some such piercing cause. Being told of these Rarities so nigh me, I took a journey to see the place, and gathered many of the stones, and found them such as I have told you. Being put into Vinegar they have a motion, as other *Astroites* have, though not so lively; I suppose because of the shortness, and roundishness of their points, in the form of which I conceive lyes a great part of the cause of their motion. Some of these stones (like the stones at *Alderly*) are deficient in their figure, and have the defect supplied

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plied (or rather Super-supplied) with a rugged formless matter, hard like it self. I observed that the ground is a miry deep rotten Clay, and extreme bad way in Winter, and (which I wondred most of all at) there were here and there great Pebbles as big as a mans fist, or thereabout, mingled with this rotten earth, and by enquiry I found that this mixture of Pebbles was not from any mending of the high way, but the meer originall nature of the Earth, for I found these Pebbles in the fields as well as in the high ways. So that since this thwarts, what we said but now of Pebbles being the naturall companions of gravelly land, we are willing to grant, that (as in Grammar, so) in naturall Philosophy there is no general rule without an exception. Query, Whether in other places, where the Star-stones are found, as about *Shugbury* in *Warwickshire*, and *Belvoir Castle* in *Leicestershire*, the earth be so rotten, deep and miry, and withall whether there be any such great Pebbles mixed with it, as here, and in particular enquire

At *Purton* passage over the River of *Seavern*, where the shore as it is reported, yieldeth these Star-stones also, but they are bigger, and the Columnnes of them longer then at *Lassington*. And indeed accordingly it is delivered to me, as a miry onsy shore in some places, and a quicksand in others, very dangerous for horse and man at low water, and one of the worst passages, over the River at those times.

At *Puckle Church* (about 6 miles from *Brissol*) they dig a kind of Stone that is hard, blewish,  
broad

broad and about halfe a foot thick, and so even, and the sides so parallel to each other, as if nature had intended it for Tombstones. The stones are many of them of a very great breadth, and lye some six or seven of them one under another in bed; and of about the same thickness all of them; and then they come to a light blewish Clay, below which is no more of this stone to be found. The uppermost bed of the stone lyes very near to the surface of the earth, so that in one place near the Town in the high way, a man rides for ten peirches or more, as if he rode upon a pavement of broad stone, or rather upon one entire stone.

## OXFORDSHIRE.

**T**His County (saith Speed) hath a wholesome temperate air, and rich soil.

There are in one place of this shire Stones set tip in a round Circle (like the *Stonehenge*) called Rollrich stones.

The City of *Oxford* is a very healthfull place, which *Camden* thinks is, because it is defended from the South wind, and the West, but lyes open to the North-East and East wind.

On the descent of *Heddenton* hill near *Oxford* rises a spring, which runs down towards Kings-  
H a mill,

mill, a mill so called, lying over against *Magdalen Colledge*. It is reported, that this spring hath a petrifying quality, and will in some short time, if a stick be laid in it, either turn it into stone, or wrap it in a stony crust,

## BUCKINGHAMSHIRE.

**I**N this Shire grows *Beech* in greater plenty, then in any, at least most Counties of *England*; and it grows most in the Chalky parts of it.

The Sheep in the Vales of this Shire (saith *Speed*) have most excellent fine and soft fleeces.

About *Marlow*, when their land is worn out, they make it rich again with Chalking of it, so that it bears corn abundantly.

BED.



*Bedfordshire & Hartfordshire.*

**B***edfordshire* (saith *Speed*) hath temperate air, and in the North good soile, but the South not so good, yet it is excellent good for Barley. So that this County (as also her next neighbour *Hartfordshire*) hath the name for the best Barley in the Eastern parts of *England*.

In the year 1399, just before the warrs brake out between the two illustrious *Roses* of *York* and *Lancaster*, on New years day, the deep River that passeth between *Snelstone* and *Harwood* (two villages not far from *Bedford Town*) called *Ouse*, suddenly ceased its course, and stood still; so that forward men passed three miles together on foot in the very depth of the Channell, and backward the waters swelled up to a great height, which some judicious men observing, conceived was an ill omen of that division, which followed shortly after between *K. Richard* the second, and his people. I dare not be surety for the truth of every circumstance of this story, yet I believe the main of it may be true. But I cannot conceive how so strange a thing should come about, unless it were by a sudden frost (the time of the year being seasonable for it) which might congeal those waters that fed the stream, at their first issuing out of the earth at the head of the River, the rest of the water

in the mean time passing away down, because being in motion they were not so capable of congelation. Notwithstanding the story mentions not a word of frost, which peradventure might be the cause of it for all that; the custome of those that tell such strange stories, being prudently to conceale those particulars that are likely to bewray the naturall cause, and spoil the miracle; It being as naturall to the generality of visible creatures, to love being the Authors of wonderfull relations as to laugh.

There was in time past an odd story of K. *Offa's* leaden Tomb, (which was once in *Bedford* Town) that it appears often to them that esek it not, but cannot be seen of them that seek it. But whether the report continue still, I know not.

At *Aspley-Gowiz* near *Woburn* is an earth, that they say turneth wood into stone, and that a wooden ladder was to be seen in the Monastery hard by, which having lien a good while covered all over with it, was digged out again all stone.

*Dunstable* stands upon a Chalky ground, having four streets, & in each of them it hath a pond, which is fed with rain, and hath no Spring (for they have never a well in the Town under twenty four Cubits deep) and yet these ponds are never dry.

In our remembrance (saith *Cambden*) near *Fishpoole* street in *Saint Albans* certain Anchors were digged up: This is a very strange thing indeed, and very well worth the Ventilating It puts me in mind, of what the Poet *Ovid* sings

in the person of Pythagoras of Samos,

*Vetus inventa est in montibus Anchora summis.*

*On tops of hills old Anchors have been found.*

There is near St. Albans a Brook called *Wenmere*, or *Womere*, which never breaketh out, but it foretelleth dearth and scarcity of Corn, or else some extraordinary dangerous times shortly to ensue, as the Common people believe. See what we have said of the river *Kennet* in *Wiltshire*, touching the breaking forth of unusuall Springs. If now that it is a brook and runs but seldome, it be of so ill portent, let them that have a mind to smile, say, of how fatall a signification it was, when it was a river, and a Navigable one too, as the Anchors before mentioned seem willing to perswade us.

At *Ashwell* in *Hartfordshire* rise so many sources of Springs together, that they presently drive a Mill, and become a pretty big River. See before, what we said of the Spring at *Chedder* in *Somersetshire*.





## MIDDLESEX.

**T**He air of this Shire is healthfull ( as being all a gravell ) and the soile rich, as being generally flat and levell, and having a ready help at hand, the fat compost of a populous City.

At *Barnet* are medicinall waters, very famous.

*Heston* a small village near *Harrow* on the *Hill*, is very famous for yielding the purest flower for *Manchet*.

The water of *Crowders Well* ( saith the Author of *Tactometria* ) on the back side of *St. Gilos* by *Cripplegate*, and that of the *Postern Spring* on *Tower Hill*, have a very pleasant tast like that of new milk, and are very good for sore eyes. But *Crowders well* is far better of the two. An ancient man ( saith the same Author ) in *Londen* whensoever he was sick, would drink plentifully of this *Crowders well water*, and was presently made well again ; and whensoever he was overcome of drink he would drink of this water, which would presently make him sober again.

The *Stews* by the *Bank-side* ( saith *Cambden* ) in *Southwarke* were made to feed *Pikes* & *Tenches* fat, and to scour them from their muddy *Fennish* tast. I have seen ( saith he ) *Pikes* panches opened with

a knife to shew their fatness, and presently the wounds have come together again by the touch of tenches, and by the help of their glewy slime been perfectly healed up.

The shore of this Shire is washed by the goodly River of *Thames*, which glides along with a much more clear and gentle stream then the river of *Severn*. The cause of the clearness of the Water, is its running in a gravelly Valley, and over a clear ground, Gravel being unapt to mix with Water, when it is stirred, and too heavy to swim very far along with it. The River of *Severn* (as also the River of *Avon* that runs from the *Bath*, and by *Bristol*) is on the contrary a very muddy troubled Water, because it washes a miry and ouzy shore almost all along. For the gentleness of the Current in the *Thames*, we are to know there are two principal causes of it, the great winding of the River, which locks in the Water that it cannot make that haste down to sea, that it would; and the low lying of the head Springs of it, from whence there is but an easie descent to the sea. And I think it is not amiss to note here, that this easie descent of the Waters to the sea-ward, is another reason why the tide flows up so high into the heart of this River. For who sees not, that the more steep the River, the less way is the Tide able to force its way up into it? Swift Rivers have alwayes their Heads lying high, or their course direct, or both. Indeed in case swift Rivers do, or did at first run winding to, and again; yet if their Springs lye high, they will in process of time by their violence

lence pare away the Promontories of their banks, (unless they be rocky and stubborn) and make their way straighter.

There are in the *Thames* three other things worth observation, to wit, its Spring-Tides, its overflowing its banks, and its strange shifting of Tides at sometimes; touching all which (because it falls not unhandfomely into this place) I shal deliver my conceptions, in regard I have (I think) something to say to them, which I never yet read. And first, for the Spring-Tides in the *Thames* and other Rivers (which are higher Tides then ordinary, that happen about every ful and change of the *Moon*) the great French Philosopher *Des-Cartes*, endeavours in his *Principia Philosophia*, to give us the reason of them, by framing a most ingenious *Hypothesis* (too long here to set down) and telling us from the Theorique of the *Moon*, that the *Moon* moves so in her *Ellipsis*, or Oval-fashioned Orb about the Earth, that at her ful and change she comes nearer the earth, and in each Quarter goes farther from it; whence (according to his *Hypothesis*) greater Tides must be at ful and change, and neap or low Tides at the Quarters. All which is for the most part true indeed; and without doubt the *Moon* her nearness at the Ful and Change, is the cause of the Spring-Tides then, even as the *Moon*'s being further off at the Quarters, makes the neap-tides then; but there is another thing considerable in the business, which *Des-Cartes* never considered, and which I fear he never knew; that is, that the spring-tides come

come not just upon the day of the Full and Change, but follow two or three days after (and so do the Neaps too after the Quarters.) which is against him, and seems to shake his *Hypothesis*. I mentioned, that makes the Spring-tides and Neaps to fall just on the days of the Change, Full and Quarters. To untye this knot, then I conceive the cause why the Spring-tides are at the highest two or three days after the Full and Change, and not on the very day, &c. is the same with that why the sharpest pinching time of Winter comes not just at the shortest day, when the Sun is at the lowest, but in *January*, about a Month or five Weeks after: Why also the coldest time of the night is not at mid-night, but about break of day: Why the hottest time of Summer is in *July*, a Month or five Weeks after the solstice, and why the hottest time of the day is not just at noon, but about two or three a Clock in the afternoon. To illustrate the reason of which, let us suppose a large Cistern which hath a Cock towards, or at the bottom of it, that constantly lets out six Gal. of water (if there be so much in the Cistern) in a certain space of time; and over the Cistern suppose another Cock that conveys Water from some other place into this Cistern, and which runs at first but very slowly, but after by degrees faster and faster, til at length it let in eight Gallons of water in the same space of time that the cock below (as we said) lets out six Gallons: And further, let us suppose that the cock above, after it hath continued running for some small time  
after

after the rate of eight Gallons doth decrease, by the same degrees ( that before it encreased by ) to seven Gallons, and so to six, five, four, and so less and less, til at length it quite give over running. There is no man, I think, but will say, that this Cistern will be fuller of Water when it hath decreased from eight Gallons, in a space to seven Gallons, and yet fuller when it is decreased to six Gallons and a half, then when it was at seven; and fullest of all just before it is decreased to six Gallons in a space, because til that time there comes more Water into the Cistern at the one Cock, then there goes out at the other. Even so, though the heat of the Sun simply considered in its self, be not so great about the middle of *July*, as at the solstice in *June*, because he is descended lower; yet because the heat that the Sun pours in the air every day, is greater then the cold which his absence causeth by night, nothing can follow thereupon, but an encrease of the heat. And the like may be said of afternoon heats; *January* after-Winters, morning colds, and spring-tides coming behind the Fulls and Changes.

In the next place, the *Thames* overflowing its banks proceeds from several causes, as from great rains, whereby the fresh Waters encrease up the River, and going down to sea-ward, are encountred by the Flood, whence they must needs swell above their usual height; of which there was a notable example in the year 1555. when by reason of excessive rains that had fallen, all *St. Georges Fields* in *Southmark*, and *West-*  
minster.

minster-Hall were overflown. Again, inundations of the *Thames* may be caused by boisterous North-west Winds, which cause generally very great Tides, not onely in the River of *Thames*, and at the mouth of it, but on the coast of *Holland*, *Flanders*, *Picardy*, and the shores of *England* opposite to them. And this is, because that wind doth with equal force blow in the Tide of flood at both the ends of this Island, Westward and Northward, as is partly touched before. But thirdly, there may be peradventure another cause of great Tides and inundations in the *Thames*, which is not yet commonly taken notice of; and that is, the Moons being in the *Perigee* of her Eccentrick, or in that part of her Orb which is nearest to the earth. For if (as we said before) the Moons coming nearer the earth at her Ful and Change, make the Spring-Tides, and her withdrawing her self farther from the Earth at her Quarters, make the neap-tides, methinks it should follow (but I would have it observed further) that if to the proximiority which the Moon hath to the earth by moving in her *Ellepsis*, there be added that proximiority which she hath in her Eccentrick (the Astronomers call it sometimes her *Opposite Auge*) she should operate so much the more extraordinarily upon the Sea, and make the higher Spring-Tides at such Ful or Change; and on the contrary, that when she is estranged from us by a double elongation, to wit, of the Quarter in her *Ellepsis*, and of her *Auge* in her Eccentrick, she should operate so much the more weakly  
then

then ordinary, and at that quarter make a slack Neap. I have observed it somewhat my self, and found it hit, so far as I was able to judge; but I dare not trust my own single observation, especially because I observed it not long, and never could so constantly as I should. There rests only one doubt in this matter, which I profess I know not what to say to it; and that is, that the Moon comes down lower to the earth in her Eccentric, then in her Ellepsis (pardon the oddness of the expression, for I confess her Ellipsis is her Eccentric) and yet her less approximations at the Ful and Change, make the great Tides, whereas her great Eccentric approximations make less alterations in them without doubt, and (it may be) no alterations at all.

Lastly, in the *Thames* there happens at some times strange shifting of the Tides, which is vulgarly reckoned a great *Prodigy*, because it happens but seldom; and yet I believe it hath a natural cause, as well as other common effects, and would be as common as they, if its cause were as common. Now for the finding out the cause wee speak of, we shal give you a Catalogue and History of several of these shiftings that have happened, according to the relation of our Chronicles.

Octob. 12. 1411. the *Thames* flowed thrice in one day.

Anno 1550. Decemb. 17. being *Thursday*, the *Thames* flowed and ebbd three times in nine hours below the Bridge. It should have been either *Wednesday* the 17th, or *Thursday* the 18th.  
The

The Historian was onely out in the day.

Anno 1564. *January* the 26. being *Friday* at night were two Tides in two hours, at *London-Bridge*. The next day were likewise two in the morning, and two at night. On *Sunday January* the 28. were two Tides in the morning, and at night but one (as it used to be) and so continued.

Anno 1574. *November* the 6. in the morning, there happened two great Tides at *London* in the *Thames*; the first by course, the other within an hour after, which overflowed the Marshes, with many Vaults and Sellers near adjoining.

Anno 1608, and 609. *February* the 19. being *Sunday*, it should have been dead low Water at *London-Bridge*; but then it was high Water; and presently it ebbed almost half an hour to a foot depth, and then suddenly it flowed again almost two foot higher then it did before, and then ebbed again til it came near the right course; so that the next flood began in a manner as it should, and so continued. All this (saith the *Chronicler*) happened before 12. of the clock at noon, the Weather being indifferent calm.

Anno 1609, & 10. *February* the 6. was strange shifting of the Tides in the *Thames* again.

Anno 1622. & 23. *January* the 3d. being *Friday* in the morning, the *Thames* shewed four Tides within five hours, viz. Two Floods, and two Ebbs, and then kept its right course. Thus far out of our *Chronicles*; to which I shal add two other instances that happened of late years. *Viz.*

*Anno*



*Anno 1653. & 4. on Candlemas day the Thames ebbed and flowed thrice in six hours; and the like shifting of the Tides was observed in the Maritime places of Kent at the same time, as I was assured by many Sea-men.*

*Lastly, Anno 1656. Octob. 3. the River of Thames ebbed and flowed twice in three hours. For this we are beholding to C. Wharton's Gesta Britannorum, in his Almanack,*

Which instances if we particularly examine, we shall find, that in all of them the tides were very slack, and in a manner at the very neapest; and (which is not inconsiderable) that in all of them (except two, viz. 1574. and 1656. the Moon was in *Apogæo* about three or four days before the shifting, to make them (if possible) the more neap and slack. And in my Diary of observations for 1654. (in which year I was an exact observer of the Wind and Weather) I find against the second of *February*, and the days before and after it, 1653. & 54. that the Wind blew hard at Northwest. In all the other examples above-named, I cannot inform my self how the Wind was, no not in 1622. & 23. though *Kepler* hath set down the Weather for that year, because he hath said nothing at all of the wind. And in 1656. though I was an observer that year too; yet being in *October* afflicted with a fierce *Quartan*, which had siezed me the *August* before, my observations for that Month are very imperfect, both as to Wind and Weather too, so that I am at a loss how the Winde was then. Nevertheless, by that little light we have from  
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the example mentioned in 1653. & 54. I cannot but think that the cause of the shifting of the Tides is onely the overbearing of their course when they are at their slackest, by a North-west Wind, which is the most powerful Adversarie they can have upon our coasts, as is said before. For if a slow ebb be encountered full in the teeth with a hard storm, what can follow but a return of the Tide back again? And if the North-west Wind either abate its fierceness, or shift into some other quarters, as the South-west, or North-east for some short time, and then either return to its former place, or resume its former force, and do thus once, twice, and again, (which we know is not inconsistent with the nature and custom of the wind off at sea, though at Land its wanderings are not altogether so sensible) we shall easily believe (seeing so plain a reason for it) that there wil be a playing of the Tide to and fro, and several floods and ebbs succeeding one another in a few hours space. And it may be this shifting of the Tides is the more notable in the *Thames*, because of its gentle ebb to Sea-ward, which is the more easily turned; whereas a swift Current in a River would prevail over these irregularities. But let further observation be made, how the Wind is disposed at the next shifting of the tides that happens, which (for some private reasons) I conceive will be in the next year, 1661. if not this Winter, 1660.

I forgot to say in its due place, that several great inundations speak in favour of my opinion

on touching the Moon in *Perigæo*, her greatning the Tides. For I can assure you, that for that great Flood *Anno 1530. November 5.* on which was made this Distich.

*Anno ter deno cum sequi mille, Novembris*

*Quinta stat: falsis Zelandia rotasub undis:*

That in the year 1551. & 1552. *January* the 13. that horrible one 1570. on *All-Saints* day the first of *November*, and that notable one in the year 1606. & 7. *January* the 20. the greatest that was ever known in *Severn*, and so fatal to *Somersetshire*, *Glocestershire*, and *Monmouthshire*, they were all when the Moon was in *Perigæo*, as he that lists to calculate or search the *Ephemerides* for those years, will find.

I have heard it reported, (but I would have further tryal made) that the water of the *Poslern-spring* on *Tower-hill*, being let stand for several days to settle, wil have in the bottom of it a yellow sediment, much resembling *Brimstone* both in colour and substance.

Essex



## E S S E X.

**T**he air of this shire is temperate, only towards the Sea it is aguish: The Soil is for the most part good, but in some parts so fruitful, that after three years Gleab of *Saffron* (which they plant much in the North part of the shire) the Land for 18. more wil yeeld plenty of *Barley*, without any dung or compost at all; and so *Saffron* again: Which *Saffron* (saith *Cambden*) in the month of *July* every third year, when the heads thereof have been plucked up, is after twenty days spitted, or set again under mould, and about the end of *September* it puts forth a blewish Flower out of the middle whereof hang three red chives of *Saffron*, which are gathered before sunrise, and being plucked out of the Flower, are dried at a soft fire; every acre of ground making 80. or 100. weight of moist *Saffron*, which being dried, is some twenty pound.

Near *Tilbury* (over against *Gravesend*) there are such pits as those spoken of before in *Kent*, of ten fathom deep in a chalky ground, and of the same form.

At the mouth of the *Thames* lyes the little Isle of *Canvey*, the Mutton whereof is much commended for its sweetness.

The salt-water about *Harwich* maketh all their springs brackish.

At *Barklow* (saith *Speed*) grows an Herb called *Dane-wort*, very plentifully, that beareth red Berries, which is held by the common people to spring from *Danes-blood*. This Herb is no other then that which *Herbarists* called *Dwarf-Elder*; it grows in sundry other places of *England*, as namely in the high-way between *Babchild* and *Greenstreet*, at a place called *Radfield*, near *Sitting-burn* in *Kent*.

*Walfleet* in this shire is commended for the excellent Oysters it sends to the City of *London*. In the time of *Rich. the 2d.* in the Eastern Promontory of this County, very huge teeth were found; and not far from thence in the reign of *Qu. Elizabeth*, extraordinary huge bones were digged up. They are thought to have been the bones and teeth of some Elephant buried there by their loving Masters the Romans.

In the year 1580. at *Alhallantside*, an Army of Mice so over-run the Marshes in *Denge-Hundred*, near *Southminster*, that they eat up the Grass to the very Roots, and so poisoned it with their teeth, that a great Murrain fel upon the Cattle that grazed there. But at length a great number of strange painted Owles came (no man knows whence) and devoured all the Mice. The like vexation was at the same time in *Kent*, saith *Stow*. It is reported, that in 1648. there happened the like again in *Essex*. But of this we have discoursed somewhat largely already in *Corn-*

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SHE.



## SUFFOLK.

**T**His County is most of it Clay and rich Marle; and the air so good, that it is by some Physicians thought to be the best in *England*, especially about *Bury*: It yeelds much Butter and Cheese; the Butter excellent good, but the Cheese far inferior to that of *Cheeshire*: It is thought (not without reason) that the goodness of the one, spoileth the other.

In the year 1555, (saith *Speed*) which was an unseasonable year, that the Corn through *England* was choaked and blasted in the ear, such a crop of *Peason* without tillage, or sowing, grew in the Rocks between *Oxford* and *Aldbrough*, where never Grasse grew, or earth was ever seen, but hard Rocks three yards deep under their Roots, that in *August* there were gathered above a hundred quarters, and there remained as many more in blossoming. *Cambden* sayes the same, but that the *Peason* grew about the end of *September*, and brought down the price of Corn, whereas before there was a great Dearth. Query, whether there grow not *Peason* in the same place every year (though it may be in wet years, such as 1555. proved in Harvest, they grow up

more plentifully) because *Herbarists* say that they are a distinct sort of Pease (differing from our common Garden and Field-Peas) and love to grow on such desert shores near the sea side, as is said before in *Kent* about *Sandwich* and *Deveness*, where they grow every year, and never miss.

*Ralph Coggeshall* (an old Author) reports, that near *Oxford*, about the year 1187. a fish in all parts like a man, was taken and kept 6 months in the Castle there, whence he escaped again to sea. *Stow* saith he was taken in a Fisher-mans Net. A story much like this we have in the life of *Perseus*, written by the learned *Gassendus*, which compared with this, makes me give a little credit to that which *Pliny* reports, that a *Triton* or Man-fish was taken on the shore of *Perugia*, and that another was caught in the streights of *Gibraltar*.

But I give not the like credit to the fable of *Nereides*, touching two green boys of the kind of Satyres, that should rise out of the ground at *Mulpi*, coming from the *Antipodes*.

*Nere*



# NORFOLK.

**T**His County hath a sharp air, especially in the *Champion*, and near the Sea, and the Spring and Harvest are late. The soil is in many places good, but it is generally Olayic, or a fat Chalk. And though it be healthy in some places, yet by compasture of sheep the heaths are made mighty rich for Corn; and when they are laid again from bearing of Corn, they yeild a sweeter and more plentiful seed for sheep. This Countrey also yeilds good store of Honey and Saffron; but the best Saffron is about *Walsingham*.

The inhabitants of this Countrey (as *Cambden* relates) are observed to be naturally very capable of the niceties and quirks of the Law; and those of them that bend their studies that way, prove generally the best Lawyers. They are also (he saith) of a passing good complexion.

In the shore of this County every September is a great fishing for Herings, it being the nature of that Fish in great shoals to dance out once a year about our Island, and keep its due time & season upon the same shores (unless its course



be a little retarded by storms and foul weather) coming from the Sea into our narrow Seas by the North of *Scotland*, and going out again by the Lands end of *Cornwall*, and taking this shore in its way in *September*. It is reported, that *Herrings* are no where more plentiful then on the coast of *England*:

The River *Bure* in this shire is incredibly full of fish. For the finding out the cause of this, enquiry should be made what kind of soil the head springs issue from, and what kind of shore it washes. Generally the slowest Rivers (*Galeris paribus*) are fullest of fish. And this I take to be one reason why the *Thames* is more pisculent, or full of fish then the *Severn*.

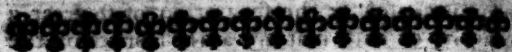
The River *Tare* by *Normich* is very full of a kind of fish called *Ruffes*, which (saith *Cambden*) have a body all over rough with sharp & prickly fins. It delights in sandy places like the *Perch*, and is as big; in colour brown and dusky above, but of a palish yellow beneath: it is marked by the chaws with a double course of half circles; the eye for the upper half of it is of a dark brown; for the nether part of it somewhat yellowish, the ball of it black; and there is a line goes along the back, which is fastened to the body as it were with an overthwart thred; it is all spotted over the tail and fins with black speckles; when the fish is angry, the finnes stand up stiff, and after its anger is over, they fall flat again. It is a very wholesom Fish, and eats tender and short, and tastes like a *Perch*. One cause of its tenderness I conceive to be its roughness without,

without, and the sharp pricklines of its finnes. Even as it is probable that the tenderness of venison is caused by the separation of so great a quantity of hard matter, as the bones of the beast consist of, from the Mass of the body. This *Riffe* is a very rare fish to be found in other Rivers. Query, whether the banks of Rivers that produce peculiar fish, do not produce peculiar plants, because the peculiarity of the fish seems to proceed from a peculiar tincture of the Water, which it cannot have but from the earth.

*St. Bennets* in the *Helm* hath such fenny and rotten ground about it, that (saith *Cambden*) if a man cut up the Roots or Strings of Trees, &c. it floateth aloft on the Water, and follows one whithersoever he pleases. Hereabouts also are Cockles and Periwinkles sometimes digged up out of the earth, which makes some think that formerly it was overflowed with the sea.

The ground about *Winterton* (like that of *Briacatum* in *Africk*, mentioned by *Pliny*) is the richest, fattest, rottenest, and easiest to plough of any in *England*.

Upon the shore of this shire *Jeat* and *Amber* are often found; and sometimes *Hawks* are taken.



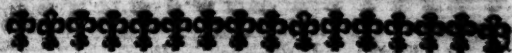
## Cambridgeshire.

**T**His Countie by reason of the Fennes hath but a sickly air. The soile yields very good Barly and good store of Saffron.

The herb called *Scordium* (or *Water-German-her*) groweth very plentifully in the *Fennes*. Of this they make that well known Cordiall and Disphoretick called *Diascordium*.

In the Countrey about the *Fennes* (saith Speed) water-Fowle is so plentifull and cheap, that five men may be wel satisfied with that kind of fare for less then a half-penny.

In the *Fennes*, when they have mowen their lid (as they call it) that is their grass, which is exceeding ranke, as much as will serve their turns, they set fire on the rest in *November*, that it may come up again in abundance. An Advertisement for Grassiers in other Counties.



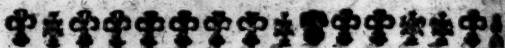
## Huntingtonshire.

**T**He hilly part of this County is for the plough, and the valley for pasture, which is reckoned as good as any in *England*. The inhabitants burn much turfe, which they have in good plenty from the adjacent moors.

At *Ayleweſton* in this ſhire are two little Springs, the one freſh, the other ſomewhat brackiſh. The latter they ſay is good for Scabs and Leproſie: and the other for dim ſights.

*Wittleſmore*-lake, and other Meers near it in this Shire do ſometimes in calme and fair weather, ſuddenly riſe tempeſtuouſly with water-quakes; by reaſon ( as ſome think ) of vapours breaking violently out of the earth. Which may well be, for the ground near it, is rotten and hollow.

The Natives that dwell about theſe Meers are heathfull, and live very long, but ſtrangers are ſubject to much ſickneſs.



## Northamptonshire.

**T**His County hath a wholesome air, and a very rich soile.

By *Collyweston* in this shire slate stones are digged.

The River *Nen* runs by the South side of *Peterborough*, in the middle of which (as *William of Strassham* saith) is a gulfe so deep, and cold withall, that even in Summer no swimmer is able to dive to the bottom of it, yet it is never frozen in Winter; for there is a Spring, in it, whence the water always riseth and bubbleth up, and that keeps it from freezing.

## Leicestershire.

**T**He air of this shire is mild and wholesome, and makes the inhabitants very healthfull, and long lived.

Near *Lutterworth* is a Spring so cold, that within a short time it turneth straw and sticks into stones.

In the North parts of the shire are store of Pit Coals, which are of the nature of hardened *Bitumen*, saith *Cambden*. The

The people of *Carleton* (as both *Cambden* and *Speed* say) cannot pronounce their words wel, but all of them in a manner have an illfavoured untunable kind of Speech, fetching their words with much ado deep out of their throat, with a kind of wharling, whether it be by the nature of the soile or the water, or by some secret operation of nature. Thus say they, but I have heard from some that were this Country men, that it is *Bresan* that is the Town of the Wharlers and not *Carleton*.

In the Rocks about *Belvoir* Castle is sometimes found the *Astroits* or Star-stone, resembling little stars joined one to another; wherein are to be seen at every corner five beams, and in every beam in the middle is small hollowness. The *Astroites* of *Germany* being put into Vinegar (saith *Cambden*) will move it selfe and turn round, but whether these of *Belvoir* will do so too or no, I never tried. I once saw an *Astroite* put into Vinegar, which moved according as *Cambden* would have it, but from whence it came, or where it was gathered I know not; onely I am sure it was none of those of *Lassington*, for it was bigger much then they, and not so much wrought.

At *Barrow* is digged the best Lime-stone in *England*, being extraordinary strong; Of which it may be was made the Morter that they used in building in times past, which was in a manner as hard as the stone it self, as appears in the walls of *Leicester* and other Cities at this day.

*Nitting-*



## Nottingham. & Rutlandshires.

**T**He air of *Nottinghamshire* is healthful; and the soile rich, being in some places clayie, and others sandy.

In this shire are abundance of Pit Coale. Also

Here grows a stone softer then *Alabaſter*, which being burnt makes a Plaiſter harder then that of *Paris*; And with this they floor their upper rooms, and when it is dry it becomes as hard as a stone.

At *Workſop* grows the beſt *Liquorice* in theſe parts of *England*.

In the Town of *Nottingham* are many rooms with the very Chimneys, Stairs, Windows, and the like, cut and hewen out of the Main ſolid Rock.

*Rutlandſhire* hath rich Land; but it is red, ſo that it ſtains the Wooll of thoſe Sheep that feed on it, into a reddiſh colour. The air is temperate, wholeſome, and not ſubject to fogs.

*Derby*



## Derbyshire.

**T**His shire (as most inland shires of England) hath a wholsome air, and in the South and East parts rich soile, but in the North and West hilly, with a black and mossy barren ground; Which two differing natures of soile are divided by the River *Derwent*. And this is in some places stained black with the soile and earth it passeth by.

The Town of *Derby* affords excellent Ale; which kind of drink *Turnebus* saith is more wholsome, and contributory to long life then Wine; and that it is this that makes many of us live 100 years. Yet *Asclepiades* in *Plutarch* saith, it is the cold climate that keeps in the naturall heat in our bodies, and makes us live 120 years. Thus saith *Cambden*, So much indeed is true, that within these 100 years (since the use of Beer hath increased among us, which was first known about the year 1524) we live, not generally so great age as formerly.

This shire is well stored with Milstones, Crystal, Alabaſter and Whetstone; And in the Peak with Pit Coal, Iron, & Lead; A metal which *France* wanteth.

The Peak hath under it in many places close to the upper crust of the earth, Limestone; which makes it so fruitful, that there be in it green grassie valleys, and hills, which bear full Oats, and feed abundance of Cattle and Sheep.

The



The Lead-stones in the Peak lye but jult within the ground next to the upper crust of the earth. They melt the Lead upon the top of the hills that lye open to the West wind; making their fires to melt it as soon as the West wind begins to blow; which wind by long experience they find holds longest of all others. But for what reason I know not, since I should think Lead were the castest of all metalls to melt, they make their fires extraordinary great.

In the Mines and Quarries in the Peak (saith *Cambden*) is sometimes found a kind of white stone very like *Cryfall*.

There is *Stibium* found in certain veins of earth in this shire. And if so (*Speed* is mine Author for it) I wonder I hear of no medicinall waters near it. For I think *Newenham Regis* in *Warwickshire* is too far from it, and the waters of *Buxton* are not purgative. For

At *Buxton* nine Springs arise out of a rock within the compass of eight yards, eight of which are warm, and the ninth very cold. These run from under a fair square building of free stone, and about sixty paces of receive another hot Spring from a Well enclosed with four flat stones; near unto which another very cold Spring bubbleth up. These waters (as daily experience sheweth) are good for the stomach and sinews.

There is a Cave (saith *Speed*) called *Eldenhole*, where (it is confidently affirmed) the waters that trickle from the top of that Cave, which indeed is very spacious, but of a low & narrow entrance, do congeal into stone, and hang like licles in the  
roof

in the roof; and some are hollow within, and grow Taperwise towards their points; very white and something like Crystall.

In the Peak Forrest, not far from *Buxton*, is a well that ordinarily ebbs and flows four times in an hour, or thereabout, keeping his just tides.

## *Warwickshire.*

**T**His Shire is commended much for the wholesomeness of the air, especially the Town of *Warwick*. The soile is very rich; especially the Vale of Red Horse, which hath a red Earth, and affords great plenty of Corn.

Here is also great store of Wool and Iron; especially about *Bromicham*.

At *Gofford-gate* in the East part of *Coventry* hangs the shield bone of a wild Bore, far bigger then the greatest Oxe bone, (it is very likely to be an Elephants) with whose snout (as the tale goes, and you may believe it, if you please) the great Pit called *Swainswell* was turned up.

At *Shugbury* are found the stones formerly mentioned in *Gloucestershire*, called *Astroines*, or *Star-stones*.

At *Lemington* a Salt Spring riseth, though a great way off from the Sea.

At *Newenham-Regis* are three Fountains, which it should seem, are strained through a vein of *Al-*

lume. The water looks, and tastes like milk: it procures urine abundantly: it is very sovereign against the stone, and for green wounds, Ulcers, and Imposthumes: Being drunk with Salt it loosens the body, but with Sugar binds it. It turneth wood into Stone (saith Speed) which I my selfe saw by some sticks, that were fallen into it, some part of them ash, some part of them stone.

### Worcestershire.

**T**His is a very pleasant County, and fertile, especially the vale of *Evesham*. In some parts of it are many Salt Pits, and Salt Springs. It affords store of excellent Cheese. The hedge-rows, and high-ways are beset with Pear-trees, of which they make Perry, a very pleasant drink, but generally very cold and windy. But (saith *Cambden*) although the Pears be in such huge abundance, yet are they not so pleasing to the taste. Which if it be true, I much wonder at it. For certainly there is much reason to believe, that where fruit trees are planted in hedgerows and highways, their fruit should be better relished, then fruit of the same kind planted in Orchards within the shade of other trees; because those in hedgerows lye more open to the Sun, and that heat, that must

con-

concoct them to give them their true relish; though on the other side I deny not, that they are more subject to blasting winds.

The *Seavern* here affords great store of fresh water *Lampreys*; they are (saith *Cambden*) like *Eeles* slippery and blackish; but under their bellies something blew: they have no gills, but let in the water at seven holes on each side of their throat: in the Spring they are sweetest, and most eatable; for in Summer the inner nerve, which serves them instead of a backbone waxeth hard. The *Italians* make a delicate dish of them, taking a *Lamprey*, and killing it in *Malmesey*: they close the mouth with a Nutmeg, and fill all the holes with as many cloves: then they roll it up, and put filberd-Nut-kernels stamped, crums of bread, oyle, *Malmesey*, and Spices to it, and so they boile it with great care, and then turn it over a soft gentle fire of Coals in a frying pan. The reason why *Seavern* affords *Lampreys* I conceive is its muddiness, the *Lamprey* being a kind of *Eele* that breeds and delights in mire. Other fish (as is before said) *Seavern* breeds not so plentifully, because as men thrive best in clear air, so fish in clear water; gross air choaking the one, and thick water the other.

At *Droitwich* are three Fountains of Salt water divided by a little Brook of fresh water passing between; by the boiling of which Salt water they make pure white Salt. *Gervase* of *Tilbury* (an Historian not rashly to be credited) saith that these salt Springs are most salt between Christmas and Midsummer; and that the rest of the year they are somewhat fresh, and not so good to make

Salt of; and that when the Salt water is run sufficiently for the use of the Country, the Springs do scarce overflow to any wast; and that at the greatest Saltness of it, it is not allayed by the nearness of the fresh water to it; and lastly, that it is found no where near the Sea. *Cambden* doubts the truth of some of these affirmations, but of which he saith not: Onely he saith, that the Salt is made from Midsummer to Midwinter, which is quite contrary to *Gervase*. Indeed if there be any difference in the saltness of these waters in severall times of the year, they should I think, be fresher from Christmas to Midsummer; because that half year all Springs (but land Springs) are highest, & run most plentifully, by reason of the great wet season immediately foregoing, which must therefore more dilute the salt. And on the contrary the Springs between Midsummer and Christmas must be the lower, because of the drought just preceding. I have heard Masons in *Kent*, that used to dig wells, say, that the Springs that feed their wells, are lowest about *Albollantide*, and highest between Easter and *Whitsuntide*, for the very same reason. I could with some ingenuous native would bestow upon us, the perfect History of these Salt Springs in *Worcestershire*, and *Cheshire*. Some Philosophers trouble themselves much about the cause of the Saltness of the Sea. I think it needs not so much puzzle and ado. If there be salt Springs that run continually into the Sea, and no part of the saltness of the water (but that which is meer fresh) ascend in vapour at the Sunn call, why should not the Sea be, and continue salt.

There

There would rather be more fear, lest the Sea should grow saltier and saltier, by these Springs continually running into it, but that the *Saline* on severall shores of the world do rob it every day, besides other losses it sustains, and escapes that it makes through private passages in the earth.

There is a report of a medicinall Water found out lately about *Eckington-Bridge*, about 7 miles from *Worcester*.

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## *Staffordshire.*

THE air of this shire is very healthfull, yet in the North parts and Moreland it is very sharp, the wind blowing cold, and the snow lying long. It affordeth good store of Alabaster, Iron, Pit-Coale (which is thought to be the *Lapis Obsidianus* of the Ancients, if it be at all in *England*; for it is hard, bright, light, and easie to be cloven in flakes, and being once kindled it burns away very quickly.) And Fish, whereof the River of *Trent* is full. The meadows of this shire are so moistned with streams and rivers running by them, that they look green in the middle of winter.

In *Pensneth-Chase* is a Coal-Pit, which (saith *Cambden*) was set on fire by a Candle through the negligence of a digger, the smok of it is commonly seen, and sometimes the flame.

In this shire there runs a hill a long, and so through the middle of *England* as far as *Scotland*, like the *Apennine* in *Italy*.

In this shire they manure their land with *Limestone*.

The people about *Wotton* by *Wolverhil* in *Moyeland* observe, that when the wind sets *West*, it always produces rain; but the *East* and *South* wind, which elsewhere brew and bring rain, here bring fair weather; unless the wind turn from the *West* into the *South*; and this they ascribe to the nearness of the *Irish Seas*. This observation I fear is somewhat imperfect, and should be driven a little farther by men able to make observation.

If the River *Dove* overflow its banks, and run into the adjoining meadows in *Aprill*, it makes them extream fruitfull. The reason of this is plain enough without farther enquiry. Indeed some Rivers overflowing their banks enrich more, and others less, according to the fatness or hungryness of their water.

The River *Dove* uses to rise extreamly within twelve hours space, but it will within the space of twelve hours return again within its banks: but *Trent* being once up, and over its banks, flows over the fields four or five days together, ere the superfluous waters can get away. Of this wee have given an account already, speaking of the *Thames* and *Seavern*.

The little River *Hans* runs under ground for three miles together.

*Cambden* saith that *Necham* speaks of a Lake in *Staffordshire* (but where it is he cannot tell) that fore-



foreshews things to come by its roaring, and no wild beast will enter into it; but he thinks it is but a Fable. And

*Gervase of Tilbury* tells us of another Lake in this Shire, called *Mahall*, near a village called *Magdalea*, which if hunters when they and their horses are tired do drink of, and give their horses of it, though it be in the hottest, and most scorching weather; they both become presently as fresh, as if they had not run at all. Likely to be as true as the former.

### *Lincolnshire.*

**I**N this Shire upon the East and South parts the air is thick and foggy because of the *Fennes*, &c. yet very moderate and mild; and the winds, that come from the raging Seas disperse those vapours, that they cannot much hurt. The North and West part of the Shire is fruitful, but the East and South are brackish and fenny, yet extra-



extraordinary full of Fish and Sea-fowl; especially Mallards, which they take in August with nets.

This Shire yieldeth Flax and Alabaster, and Plaister, which I think is that they call *Plaster of Paris*, or of that kind.

The ground about *Crowland* is so rotten, that one may thrust a Pole into it thirty foot deep. Also

The ground in *Holland* (a part of this shire so called) is so wet, that as one stands upon it, the earth will shake under his feet, and hee will bee ready to sink into it; Nor shall you beside the paved Causeys meet with so much as a little stone in it. Here are also many quicksands, which have a wonderfull force both to draw to them, and to hold fast that which they have drawn. Moreover the people here have no fresh water, but only rain water, and that in pits. Which if they be deep, becomes brackish presently; And if they be shallow they dry up as soon.

About *Barton upon Humber* are abundance of *Pewees*, *Godwits*, *Knots*, (which are so called from *Cnut* the Dane, and are thought to have flown hither out of *Denmark*) and *Dottrells*, a simple kind of bird, much given to imitating. These *Dottrells* are caught by Candle light in this manner. The Fowler stands before the bird, and if hee put out an arm, the bird stretcheth out a wing: If hee holds out his head, or set forward his leg, the bird doth

doth the like, and imitates the Fowlers gesture so long, till the Fowler drawing nearer and nearer by degrees, at length throws his net over him, and takes him.

In the Isle of *Asholme*, grows a sweet kind of Shrub, called *Galls*, as also *Pets* in the *Mooves*, (I know not what that is) and dead roots of *Pirre* wood, which in burning give a rank sweet smell; Further there have been great and long *Pirre* Trees found both in this Island, and at *Lough-ton* upon *Trent*: Also there is in this Isle much *Flax* and *Alabaster*; But the *Alabaster* is more fit for *Plaster*, then anything else, because it is brittle.

## Shropshire.

**T**His County (saith *Speed*) hath wholesome temperate air, affording health to the inhabitants at all seasons of the year. This was verified in old *Thomas Parre* of *Alberbury*, who was 152 years old, and dyed in the year 1635. The soile is generally fertile, standing most upon a reddish clay, and yields *Pit Coals* and *Iron*.

At *Wenlock* in the time of *Richard* the second was found a rich Mine of Copper.

Upon *Cleebill* grows the best Barley in the shire.

At *Pitchford* is a Well (or Spring) in a private mans yard, whereon floweth a thick skum of liquid *Bitumen*; which being cleared and taken off one day, will have the like again on the morrow. Try (saith *Cambden*) whether this *Bitumen* bee good for the falling sickness, and have a powerfull property to draw and close up wounds, as that in *Judas* is known to have. There is the like swimming of *Bitumen* in that lake in *Judas* we speak of, called *Asphaltites*, supposed to be the place where *Sodom* and *Gomorha* stood; as also in a standing water about *Samosata*, and in a Spring by *Agrigentum* in *Sicily*.

Where the plot of the City *Wrocester* lay, the earth is more blackish then elsewhere, and bears very good Barley.

In the year 1551. Aprill the 15, the English sweating sickness brake forth first at *Shresbury*, and so dispersed it self over the whole land; and killed abundance, especially middle-aged people. The first time of this sweating sickness was in the year 1485, saith *Cambden*, a little after a great Conjunction of the Superiour Planets in *Scorpio*. The second time (but more mildly, yet the Plague accompanied it) was Anno 1518, being 33 years after it, upon a great Opposition of the same Planets in *Scorpio* and *Taurus*, when it also plagued the *Netherlands*, and high *Germany* too. And the 3 time was 33 years after that again, viz. Anno 1551. the year

Year now spoken of, when another *Conjunction* of those Planets in *Scorpio* took its effects, but we must crave leave to tell *Cambden*, that his pretended revolution of 33 years is not so; for the middle sweat was not in 1518, as he affirms it, but in 1517 as both *Godwin* and *Stow* tell us; though we confess, the Plague was in 1518. So that then there will be instead of 33 and 33, 32 and 34. And that which will do this revolution more mischief is, that there was a fourth sweat between the years 1517 and 1551, viz. Anno 1528, which *Cambden* never mentions; besides another fift sweat, that (if I be not mistaken) happened before 1517. Moreover whereas *Cambden* saith, that the sweat 1485. was a little after a great *Conjunction* of the superiour Planets in *Scorpio*, if by the superiour Planets he mean all the three, *Saturn*, *Jupiter* and *Mars*; that was not so. For neither did *Saturn*, *Jupiter*, *Mars* meet in the same degree of *Scorpio*; nor were all the three *Conjunctions*, which these three Planets made at that turn in *Scorpio*. It is true indeed the *Conjunction* of *Saturn*, & *Mars*, was in *Scorpio*, about the 12th degree; but it was in November 1483, almost 2 years before that sweat which began in September 1485; And the *Conjunction*, of *Saturn*, & *Jupiter* was in *Scorpio* too, about the 20th degree, but that was almost a year before the sweat too, viz. about *Alhollanday* 1484: But as for the *Conjunction*, of *Saturn*, & *Mars*, that fell not in *Scorpio*, but about the 25 degree of *Libra*, and about *Alhollandside* 1483, not far distant from the time of the *Conjunct.* of *Saturn*, & *Mars*, so that the sweat was neither after a *Conjunction* of the superior

riour Planets in *Scorpio*, nor a little after any Conjunction of them. Again, neither was the sweat 1517. upon a great Opposition of the same Planets in *Scorpio* and *Taurus*, for the opposition of *Saturn* and *Jupiter*, which happened in *Taurus* and *Scorpio*, were all three of them in 1513. and 1514. and so was the opposition of *Jupiter* and *Mars* in *Taurus* and *Scorp.* in *Novemb.* 1513. about the first degree of those two signs. And for the opposition of *Saturn* and *Mars*; and conjunction of *Saturn* and *Mars*, which we grant happened both in one year, and during *Saturn* his abode in *Scorp.* too, they both fell in 1513. the one in *March*, and the other in *December* following. Nor let it startle any one that a conjunction of *Saturn* and *Mars*, and opposition of *Saturn* and *Mars*, should happen both, during *Saturn* his being in *Scorpio*; for those that know any thing in *Astronomy*, must needs know that *Saturn* never passeth through any sign (no not *Gemini* where he moveth swiftest, because in *Perihelio*) but *Mars* gives him a conjunction and opposition constantly, before he can get out of it; nay sometimes he gives him two conjunctions, and sometimes three, beside the opposition, especially if he be near his *Aphelium*, as he is in *Scorpio*; and yet now he did not. Nor lastly, let any man start at the three oppositions of *Saturn* and *Jupiter*, that happened in 1513. and 1514. for all *Astronomers* know, that it is a very rare thing (or rather impossible) for an opposition of *Saturn* and *Jupiter* to happen single, they happening constantly every twenty years, and as constantly

ly by threes, of which the reason is plain to any  
versed in Calculations. So that it remains, that  
the Sweat 1517. neither followed upon such an  
opposition of the Planets, nor near it. Lastly,  
whereas he sayes, that the Sweat 1551. was when  
another conjunction of those Planets in *Scorpio*,  
took its effects, this is wider from the truth  
then all the rest; for there was no conjunction  
of the Superiors within six years of this Sweat.  
For example, the conjunction of *Saturn* and *Ju-*  
*piter* in 28. of *Scorpio*, happened in September 1544  
and the conjunction of *Jupiter* & *Mars*, happened  
in the 27. deg. of *Scorpio*, in January 1543. and 44.  
And for conjunctions of *Saturn* and *Mars* in  
*Scorpio*, there happened none that year, (for the  
conjunction of *Saturn* and *Mars* that was, fell  
in the beginning of *Sagittarius*) though we con-  
fess there fell (to admiration) three conjuncti-  
ons of *Saturn* and *Mars* in *Scorpio*, in the year  
1542. (A very rare thing indeed, such a triple  
conjunction of those Planets having never hap-  
pened since till the year 1640. ) But how Con-  
junctions should work seven or nine years after  
their celebration, and not before, is a secret in  
*Astrology* that I yet understand not. In the year  
1632. was indeed a very great opposition of *Sa-*  
*turn*, *Jupiter*, and *Mars* in *Taurus* and *Scorpio*, the  
two Malevolents in *Scorpio*, opposing *Jupiter* in  
*Taurus*, the conjunction and two oppositions  
happening very near together; yet there hap-  
pened in the years following, no such sweat as  
is pretended to be the effect of such conjuncti-  
ons and oppositions; so that the Astrological  
cause

cause of those contagious sweats lyes yet in the darke, I would adventure something toward it here, but that it requires a distinct Treatise by it self. *Fracastorius* attributes this sweating sickness to the Plaistriness of the soil here in *England*, (and yet it is so but in few places) and to the moistness of the weather in those years; but why it doth not reign constantly in such kind of soil in wet years, he saith not. *Cambden* thinks that this contagion hath been long before 1485 as rise in *England* as since, although it be not mentioned by Historians; that is not impossible indeed, for for that last Age wherein *Saturn* and *Jupiter* did use to meet in *Scorpio*, our Chronicles are very empty and uncertain.

Eclipses of the *Sun* in *Aries* (saith *Cambden*) have been most dangerous to *Oswestry*; for in the year 1542, and 1567. when the Eclipses of the *Sun* in *Aries*, wrought their effects, it suffered great loss by fire; but most of all after this latter Eclipse; for there were then about two hundred houses burnt. A good observation indeed, but our Author observed not all; for that which is most remarkable is, that those two Eclipses happened within two degrees one of the other; so that it may be the *Ascendent* of *Oswestry* (as *Astrologers* speak) is about the 27. deg. of *Aries*. And peradventure the reason why the late Eclipse of the *Sun* in *Aries*, viz. 1652. March 29. had no influence upon *Oswestry*, was because it happened in the 19. deg. of *Aries*, 8. deg. distant from its *Ascendent*. This is further observable, (and it looks as if there were something in it) that



that in 1567. when *Osnesbury* was burnt, *Milnall* in *Suffolk* was burnt too, and that though the *Eclips* in *Aries* 1652. had nothing to do with them (perhaps for the reason above given) yet within the time (that *Astrologers* limit the effects of *Eclipses*) two Towns in the same Shires, viz. *Bungay* in *Suffolk*, and *Drayton* in *Shropshire*, were burnt; as if there were a way to trace *Ascendents* from one Town to another, and as if the *Ascendents* of near places were not far asunder. But *nihil temere statuendum de paucis*; enquire farther, and see what I have written in my *Syzygiasticon Instauratum*, (published Anno 1653.) where I have treated of the *Ascendents* of Towns in general, and of the *Ascendent* of *Tewerton* in *Devonshire* in particular. Query also, whether in *February*, 1655. 56. any thing extraordinary happened to the Town of *Osnesbury*, upon the conjunction of *Jupiter* and *Mars*, in 25. degrees of *Aries*.





## C H E S H I R E.

**T**He air of this Shire is so healthful, that the Inhabitants generally live very long. And the warm vapors rising from the Irish Seas, do sooner melt the snow and ice in this County, then in places further off. The soil is very rich, yet observed to be more kindly and natural for Cheefe, then Corn; and it is thought that it is the soil, and not the skill of the Dairy-Woman, that makes the Cheefe so excellent, the best in *Europe*. Both men and women here, have a general commendation for beauty and handsome proportion. This shire (saith *Speed*) yeildeth Salt, Metals, Mines, and Meres.

In the River *Dee* is great plenty of Salmon. *Giraldus Cambrensis*, who lived about the yeare 1200. saith, that this River foreshewed a sure token of Victory to the inhabitants living upon it, when they were in open hostility one shore against the other; according as it inclined more to this side; or to that, after it had left the Channel. And the relator doth in some sort believe it, and so may any one else if he please.

This River *Dee* upon the fall of much Rain riseth but little; but as often as the south-wind

heare

beats long upon it, it swells and overflows the grounds adjoining extremely. This River is a very streight and broad river to sea-ward, so that what rain falls, hath an easie and quick passage out. But if the South-wind blow long, the River must needs swell much, because no wind hath so much power on the *Irish* seas, as that, because it blows right in upon it between the coasts of *Wales* and *Ireland*, and must needs swell and roll it so much the more, for that it brings the sea still in, which having not so free a passage quite through by reason of the narrow streight between *Scotland* and the North of *Ireland*, still returns back, where it meets with a fresh supply of Waters continually coming in: Now the *Irish* sea thus swelling, will have easie and ready admission into a streight River.

In the low places on the south side of *Cheshire*, by the River *Wever*, Trees are oftentimes found by digging under ground, which people think have lien buried there ever since *Noah's Flood*.

*Nantwich*, *Northwich*, and *Middlewich*, are the famous Salt-pits of this Shire, being 5. or 6. miles asunder. The whitest Salt is made at *Nantwich*, which (saith *Cambden*) hath but one Pit about some 14. foot from the River, out of which they conveigh Salt-Water by troughs of Wood into the Houses adjoining, where there stand little Barrells pitched fast in the ground; which they fill with the Water, and then make fire under the Leads, whereof they have six in a house, and in them they seeth the Water. Then with

L

little

little wooden rakes they fetch up the Salt from the botom, and put it in baskets, out of which the Liquor runs, and the pure salt remains. The Salt pit at *Northwich* is very near the brink of the River *Dan*, being a very deep and plentiful pit. Quære, whether the Rivers *Wever* and *Dan* be themselves salt at these two places. The two salt Wells at *Middlewich*, are parted one from the other by a small brook of fresh Water.

It is reported, that there are Trees that flote in *Bagmere*, (a Mere so called, near the seat of the Family of the *Breretons*) against the death of any of the heirs of the *Breretons*; and after the heir is dead, they sink, and are never seen more till the next occasion. *Cambden* saith, that this story is verified upon the credit of many credible persons; and that these bodies of trees swim for certain dayes together, and may be seen of any body: And he seconds it with another story to this purpose. *Leonardus Vairus* (saith he) reports from the testimony of Cardinal *Gravel*, that near the Abbey of *St. Maurice* in *Burgundy*, is a Fish-pond, into which are fishes put according to the number of the *Monks* of that place, and if any one of them happen to be sick, there is a fish seen also to flote and swim above the water half dead: And if the *Monk* shall dye, the said fish will dye too, some few days before him. Thus *Cambden*: who gives so much credit to these stories, that he thinks they are the Works of Angels. But so doth not *Speed*, who thinks it to be but a conceit, and a fable; as he doth also the prophesie of *Leyland* concerning

ning *Beeston* Castle mounted upon a steep hill<sup>s</sup>  
The Castle being ruinated, *Leyland* prophesied  
of it in his time, ( thus ) that it should be re-  
edified.

*The day shall come when it again shall mount his  
head aloft;*

*If I a Prophet may be heard, from Seers that say  
so oft.*

Whether *Leylands* Prophecie have proved  
true since, I know not; but so much is true, that  
in the late Wars *Beeston* Castle was a Garrison.  
Prophets generally are very compassionate to the rubbish  
of stately Piles, and the Elegies they commonly sing at  
their fall, are Prophecies of their re-edifying, because  
they see men generally willing to believe what they  
would have, though improbable; nay, though impossible.  
And this I think was the true original of that late  
Prophecie among the Welch, that *Ragland* Castle shall  
be built again.

I will not undertake to tell you the cause of  
the flooring of those Trees in *Bagmere*, because  
there are several circumstances that render it ve-  
ry dark. Onely observe, that in this shire (as is  
said) bodies of Trees are often times digged  
out of the ground.

July the 8th, being Wednesday 1657. about three  
of the clock, in the parish of *Bickley*, was heard  
a very great noise like Thunder afar off, which  
was much wondred at, because the skye was  
clear, and no appearance of a Cloud. Shortly  
after (saith the Author of this relation) a neigh-

bour comes to me, and told me I should see a very strange thing, if I would go with him. So coming into a field called the *Layfeild*, we found a very great bank of earth which had many tall Oakes growing on it, quite sunk under the ground, Trees and all. At first we durst not go near it, because the earth for near twenty yards round about, is exceeding much rent, and seems ready to fall in; but since that time my self and some others by Ropes have ventured to see the bottom, I mean, to go to the brink, so as to discern the visible bottom, which is Water, and conceived to be about 30. yards from us, under which is sunk all the earth about it for sixteen yards round at least, three tall Oaks, a very tall Awber, and certain other small Trees, and not á sprig of them to be seen above water. Four or five Oaks more are expected to fall every moment, and a great quantity of Land is like to fall, indeed never ceasing more or less; and when any considerable clod falls, it is much like the report of a Canon. We can discern the ground hollow above the Water a very great depth; but how far hollow, or how deep, is not to be found out by man: Of this we have said somewhat in *Kent*. Some of the water, (as I have been told) was drawn out of this pit with a bucket, and they found it to be as salt as sea-water; whence some imagine, that there are certain large passages there, into which the sea flows under ground; but I rather think, that this salt water is no more but that which issues from those salt springs about *Nantwich*, and other places in this shire

shire. Query, whether those Trees that are before said to be digged up in some places hereabout, were not buried in the earth by some such sinking as this. I am told, that about *Bickley* the soil is a very foul miry clay, that there is hardly any travelling that way in the winter time. If so, I conceive then, that under this upper Clay lyes a mouldring washy Clay, or Sand, which is carried away by degrees by the course of Springs ( as we said before of *Mottingham* ) and that this *July* being the dryest part of Summer, and this Summer 1657. being an extreame hot and dry Summer, (the hottest and dryest I ever knew) this Clayie ground did chap ( as it is the nature of Clay to do in dry hot weather, especially the most rotten and miry Clay, as we see in *Marshes* ) and divide it self from the rest of the ground near it, to which, and to its fall, the hollownesse underneath, and the weight of the tall Oaks above did much contribute.

*Nur-*



## Herefordshire.

**T**HE air is very wholesome, and the soil of this shire exceeding rich for Corn.

About *Lemster* is the finest Wool of *England*, though it be not so fine as that of *Aquila* and *Tarentum* in *Italy*. It is likewise famous for the purest Wheat, as *Weabley* is for the best Ale.

By *Snodhill* Castle is a quarry of excellent Marble.

Not far from *Richards* Castle, is a Well called *Bone-well* wherein are continually found little Fishes bones, (yet *Cambden* thinks they may be Frogs bones) but there is not a Fin to be teen; and being wholly cleansed thereof, wil yet have the like again. But (saith *Speed*) no man can tell whether they are produced naturally, or brought thither in veins.

In the year 1571. *Mareley* hill in the East part of the shire, with a roaring noise removed it self from the place where it stood, and for three days together travelled from its old seat. It began first to take its journey, *February* the 17<sup>th</sup>. being *Saturday* at six of the clock at night, and by seven of the clock the next morning it had gone forty paces, carrying with it sheepe in their cotes,

cotes, hedge-rows, and Trees, whereof some were overturned, and some that stood upon the plain, are firmly growing upon the hill. Those that were East, were turned West, and those in the West were set in the East. In this remove it overthrew *Kinnaston* Chappel, and turned two High-ways near a hundred yards from their old pathes. The ground that thus removed was about 26. acres, which opening it selfe with Rocks and all, bore the earth before it for four hundred yards space, without any stay, leaving Pasturage in place of the Tillage, and the Tillage overspread with Pasturage. Lastly, overwhelming its lower parts, it mounted to an hill of twelve fathoms high, and there rested after three dayes travel. *Cambden* thinks this was that kind of Earth-quake which Philosophers call *Brasmatias*.

L 4

*Breck-*





## Brecknockshire.

**T**Hree miles from *Brecknock* is a hill called *Monnch-denny*, that hath its top above the clouds; and if a cloak, hat, or staffe or the like be thrown from the top of it, it will never fall, but be blown up again; nor will any thing descend but stones, or metalline substance, or things as heavy.

On the very top of the hill called *Cadier Arthur* riseth a Spring which is deep like a Well, and four square, having no streams issuing from it, and yet there are Trouts found in it.

Two miles East from *Brecknock* is a Meer called *Llynfanathan*, which (as the people dwelling there say) was once a City, but the City was swallowed up by an Earthquake, and this water (or lake) succeeded in the place. They say likewise that at the end of Winter, when after a long frost the ice of this lake breaks, it makes a fearful noise like thunder. Peradventure it is, because the lake is encompassed with high steep hills, which pen in in the sound, and multiply it, or else the ground may be hollow underneath, or near the lake. Through this lake there runs a River called *Leven-ry* without mixture of its waters, as may be perceived

ceived both by the colour of the water, and also by the quantity of it, because it is no greater then when it entered the lake. The non-mixture of two waters, doth doubtless proceed from nothing else, but the oiliness of the one, and the acidity, (or if you will have it) the acetosity of the other Water; for we see that oil and vinegar will not mix,

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### *Radnorshire.*

**T**His Shire hath sharp and cold air, because of the Snow lying long unmelted under the shady hills, and hanging Rocks, whereof there are many.

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### *Montgomeryshire.*

**T**His shire bred excellent horses in times past, There is nothing else rare, or observable here for our purpose.

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*Mon-*



## Monmouthshire.

**T**HIS County hath good air, but bad ways.

The two Rivers of *Uske* and *Wye* are full of *Salmons* and *Trouts*. And they say, that when the *Salmons* grow out of season in the one River, they come in season in the other. But in which of the two it is that *Salmons* are in season from *September* till *April*, (which is the ordinary and general time for *Salmons*) I cannot learn, though the thing it self be averred by men of the Countrey.

The River *Wye* at *Chepstow*, riseth every Tide to a great heighth; Of the cause of it we have already said something.

At *Lanthony Abbey* (saith *Cambden*) the rain, which the Mountains breed, falls very often; the Wind blows strong, and all the Winter almost it is continually cloudy and misty; yet there are seldom any diseases there; and the grosser the air is, the milder it is.

The Moor or Marsh near *Chepstow*, suffered great loss in *January* 1606, For when the *Severn* sea (saith *Cambden*) at a spring-tide upon the Change of the Moon was partly driven back for three dayes together with a south-wind, and partly with a very strong pirry from the

the Sea troubling it, it swelled so high, that it came rushing in a main upon the tract lying so low, and also upon the like flats in *Somersetshire* over against it, and overflowed all, overthrowing houses, and drowning cattle and some people. We have already said that this flood happened when the Moon was in *Perig.* not that we exclude the change of the Moon, and the convenient sitting of the wind to be the joint causes in the effect. We onely would say, that more causes greaten the effect.

On *Gold-cliff* are yellow stones of a golden colour, and glittering by the reflection of the Sunbeams, which hath made some suspect, that there might be a mine there.

*Merlin* prophesied, that when a stout Prince with a freckled face should passe over the Ford called *Rydpencarn*, being in a River called *Nant-pen-carn*, the *Welch* should be subdued. Which accordingly came to passe, for *Henry* the second, who passed over this Ford, was freckle faced; And as soon as the *Welch* men heard where the King came over, their hearts failed them, because of this prophesie; and so they submitted, through too much credulity, saith *Cambden*. It is not impossible, that King *Henry* might choose to go over at this Ford, because of the prophecy, and his enemies credulity, the more to facilitate his conquests,



## Glamorganshire.

**T**His shire hath a temperate air, and is generally the pleasantest part of all *Southwales*.

On the top of a certain hill called *Minyd-morgan* is a monument with a strange character, which the dwellers thereabouts say, if any man read the same; he will dye shortly after. *This is not improbable; for if a chid of three months old read the three first verses of Homers Illiads, I am confident hee will not live three dayes to an end.*

Upon the River *Ogmore*, and near unto *Newton* in a sandy plain, about one hundred paces from *Severn* springs a Well; the water whereof is not very clear, in which at full Sea ( in the Summer time ) can hardly any water be gotten, but at the ebbe of the tide it bubbleth up amain. In Summer time I say, for in Winter the ebbing and flowing is nothing so evident, because of the veins of water coming in by showers or otherwise. Besides it is observed, that this spring never riseth up to the brink, or overfloweth. *Polybius* saith the same of a certain Well at *Cadix*.

*Clemens*

*Clemens Alexandrinus* saith, that in Britain is a Cave under the bottome of a hill, and on the top of it a gaping chink. And when the wind is gathered into that hole, and tossed to and fro in the womb of it, there is heard as it were a muscall sound, like that of Cymballs. It is most likely that he speaks of the Cave at *Aberbarry* in this shire, the story agreeing very near with the quality of the Cave. It is mentioned by the Lord *Verulam* in his History of the winds, to this effect. In a certain rocky cliffe, in which there are holes, if a man lay his ear to them, he shall hear diverse noises, and rumbling of winds under the earth. These noises *Cambden* saith, are to be heard as well at the lowest ebb, as the highest flood.

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*Pembrokeshire*



## Pembrokeshire.

**T**His shire hath a good, temperate, and wholesome air. The soile yields Pit Coal, and Marle.

It appeareth by *Giraldus Cambrensis*, that the *Flemmings* that inhabited this shire in his time were very skilfull in sooth-saying, by looking into beasts inwards.

In the Rocks in this shire there breeds a rare kind of *Falcon*, which is thus described. The head is flat and low, the feathers laid in rows, the legs pale and wan, the claws slender, and wide spread, and the bill soaked round.

About 300 years ago it is reported, that for 5 generations the Father of the Family in the Earldome of *Pembroke* ( their name was *Hastings* ) never saw his son.

At the time when *Henry* the second made his abode in *Ireland* were extraordinary violent, and lasting storms of wind and weather, so that the sandy shore on the coast of this shire was laid bare to the very hard ground, which had lien hid for many ages. And by further search the people found great Trunks of Trees, which when they had digged up, they were apparently lopped, so  
that

that one might see the stroaks of the *Axe* upon them, as if they had been given but the day before. The earth looked very black, and the wood of these Trunks was altogether like *Ebony*.

At the first discovery made by these storms, the Trees ( we speak of ) lay so thick, that the whole shore seemed nothing but a lopped grove. Whence may be gathered; that the Sea hath overflowed much land on this coast; As it hath indeed on the shores of many Countries bordering upon the Sea; which is to be chiefly imputed to the ignorance of the *Britans* and other barbarous Nations, who were long without the knowledge of Arts, and understood not those ways to repress the fury of the Sea, which now we do. For without doubt since the knowing age of the World the Sea hath not gained upon the land one quarter of that it did before.

About *Kilgarran* are abundance of *Salmons* taken, and there is a place called the *Salmons leap*; as there is the like also in other Rivers for this reason. The *Salmon* coveteth to get into fresh water Rivers to spawn; and when he comes to places where the water falls down right from some high places ( and some such places there be in many Rivers ) he useth this policy. He bends himself backward, and takes his tail in his mouth, and with all his force unloosing his circle on a sudden ( like a lath let go ) he mounteth up before the fall of the stream. And therefore these downright falls ( or little *Catarracts* ) of water are called the *Salmons Leap*.

In the Isle of *Scalmey* grows abundance of wild Thyme.

*Car-*





## Cardiganshire.

**A**T the head of the River *Istwyd* are some Veins of Lead found.

In the River *Tivy* in times past, the *Beaver* (or *Castor*) hath been found; but now they can find none of them. The *Beaver* is an amphibious creature, that is, lives indifferently in the Water, and on the Land. His fore-feet are like a dogs, but the hinder feet are whole-skinned, like those of a Goose. His dog-feet serve him a-shore to run, and his Geese-feet in the Water to swim. His tail is broad and gristly, which he useth as a stern to direct and turn his course: His skin is ash-coloured, somewhat inclining to blackish. It is a very subtil creature.

The Chronicles report, that while *David Menevensis* Bishop of *St. David's*, refuted the *Pelagian* Heresie, at *Llan-devi-brevi*, the earth whereon he stood and preached, rose up by Miracle to a certain height under his feet.



### Caermardenshire.

**T**His shire (as most hilly Countreys) hath a wholesome air. The soil is not said to be very fertile, but onely in some places to yield pit coals.

In Carreg Castle is a Well, that (like the sea ebbs and flows twice in four and twenty hours.

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### Merionethshire.

**T**He air may be wholesom, but the soil is but barren: For it is very full of spired Hills, being the most Mountainous shire in *Wales*, except *Caernarvon* shire. This shire is also subject to many and extraordinary great winds.

Near *Bala* is a great pool of water that drowns at least 160. acres of ground, whose nature is (as they say) such, that the high land-floods, though never so great, cannot make this pool to swell bigger; but if the air be troubled with violent tempests of winds, it riseth above its banks. The

M

River

River *Dee* runneth into this pool (saith *Speed*) with a sharp stream, and slides through it (as they say) without mixture of waters. For in this pool is bred the fish called *Guinjad*, which is never seen in *Dee*. And in *Dee* Salmons are taken, which are never found in the pool.

Upon the sea-coast of this shire, great store of Herrings are taken at the time of year.

The sea beateth so sore and hard upon the West side of the shire, that it is thought it hath carried away part of it.

The *Welch* people tell great wonders of *Caer-Gai* in this shire; but what they are, I know not.

*Cambden* tels us, that the people of this shire are much given to idleness and wantonness. I much wonder at it, because it is generally observed, that hilly Countreys are least subject to those two vices, breeding for the most part hardy and warlike people. Indeed I have heard (how truly I cannot say) that *Cambden* was not altogether so ingenuous in this Character, as he should have been; for (they say) when he came to visit this County in his preambulation, he received some unhandson affront at one place, which provoked his choler to bestow this brand of infamy upon the *Merioneth-shire* men.

*Caer-*



## *Caernarvonshire.*

**T**He air of this shire is sharp and piercing. Here are extraordinary high hills (the highest in all *Wales*) on some of which the Snow lyes long, and on others it lyes all the year long hard cruisted together. A thing not at all to be wondred at, since on the Alps, and many other Mountains much more southerly then our Island, it doth the like. The consideration of which hath bred an opinion in me, that the Globe of the Earth and Sea is of an Elliptick, or Oval form; that is, like an Egg. And my reason is this: I suppose that every yeare under both the Poles, there falls a quantity of snow, (either little or much, in the time of the suns being at the contrary Tropick, and likely enough at other times of the year too) which the Sun when he hath greatest power upon it, cannot melt all. And this is more then probable, because not only in *Greenland*, but also here in this shire, and (if we wil believe *Munster*) on the top of the Alps too, there are Mountainous Cruists of frozen snow that never were melted. So that now after so many years lapse it cannot be, I think, but that the Diameter of the earth

from pole to pole, from the top of the snow at one end of the earth, to the top of it at the other end, is much longer then in any part under the Equator, though at the Creation it were (as I believe) made spherical. And so I suppose in longer process of time it will grow more oblong. And as it so increaseth in length, so I believe the sea will decrease in depth, (tho gh both very insensibly) because snow must consist of something, and that something can be nothing but a watry vapour condensed and congealed, &c. And this watry vapour must be drawn out of the sea, or out of that part of the earth which once (sooner or later) received it from the sea: And this snow being thrown down at the Poles, and not melting, that so it may return from whence it came, and re-fill that which is emptied, must needs cause a decrease in the sea. Now that which tempts me to embrace this Paradox the more affectionately, is, for that it serves excellently well to solve a great doubt, which troubled *Tycho* and *Keppler*, about centrel Eclipses of the Moon, that happen near the Equator, such as that was which *Tycho* observed in the year 1588. and that which *Keppler* observed in the year 1624. concerning which hee speaks to this purpose. *Notandum est hanc Luna Eclipsin (instar illius, quam Tycho, anno 1588. observavit, totalem, & proximam centrali) egregie calculum fefellisse. Nam non solum mora totius Lune in tenebris brevis fuit, sed & duratio reliqua multo magis. Perinde quasi Tellus Elliptica esset, dimetientem breviorē habens sub Æquatore longiorē à Polo uno ad*

*ad alterum*; that is, We must note that this Eclipse of the Moon (*viz.* that on the 26. of September, *Stylo Novo*, 1624. like that which *Tycho* observed in the year 1588. being a total, and almost centrel one, did notoriously deceive my calculation; for not only the duration of the total obscurity was short, but also the rest of the duration before and after the total obscurity much shorter; as if (saith he) the Earth were Elliptical, having a shorter Diameter under the Equator, then from one Pole to another. And yet I am not so devoted to my own fancies, but that one solid reason shall prevail with me to abandon the dearest of them, though for the present I see abundance of reason for what I think.

In some places of this shire are bred certain Shel-fish, which being produced (saith my Author) by an heavenly dew, bring forth Pearls.

In the Pool called *Lin-pais*, there is (as it is reported) a kind of fish called *Torcoch*, having a red belly, which is nowhere else to be seen but here.

It is said also, that on the high hills of this shire are two Meres, one of which produceth fish that have but one eye; and in the other is a moveable and floating Island, which as soon as a man treads on, it presently flotes a great way off. But *Speed* thinks they are both but fables.

*Snowdon* Hills (saith *Cambden*) although they have snow always lying on them, yet are exceeding rank with grass, insomuch that they are become a Proverb among the *Welsh*; and it is certain, that there are pools and standing waters upon the very tops of these Mountains; and

they are so coated with that Inowy crutt that lyes on them, that if a man do but lightly set his foot any where on the top of the Mountains, he shal perceive the earth to stir the length of a stones cast from him; which I suppose might occasion the fable of the Floeing Island, mentioned but now.



### *Anglesey.*

**I**N diverse places (saith *Hugh Lloyd*) in the low grounds and Champion fields of this Island, the Inhabitants do every day find and dig out of the earth the bodies of huge Trees, with their Roots, and Firre-Trees of a wonderful bigness and length: Which Trees he thinks were such as were cut down by the *Romans* in their time; because *Tacitus* saith, the *Romans* when they had conquered this Island, caused all their Woods to be cut down, and utterly destroyed. But if some be found with their roots on, I cannot think so, but rather impute these spoils made on Maritime places to the want of industry and husbandry in the first ages of the world.

This

## The Natural Rarities of Denbigh-shire. 151

This Island was, in times past full of Woods and Timber; but instead of that now, it yeeldeth plenty of Corn, Sheep, and Cattel. The air is reasonable healthful, save onely a little aguish at some time, and in some places, by reason of the fogs that rise from the sea. It yeildeth also great store of Mil-stones, and Grind-stones; and in some places is found an Aluminous earth, of which they may make *Alume* and *Copperas*, but it must be with some cost and labour.

This Island (saith *Hugh Lloyd*) yeilds every year such plenty of wheat, that they call it the Mother of *Wales*.

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## *Denbighshire.*

**T**He air of this shire is cold, but very wholesome, and the snow lyes long on the hils; for it is a hilly Countrey, the high hils resembling the battlement of Walls; on the tops of which, when vapors rise in the morning in Summer time, it foreshews a fair day to follow.

The highest hil in the shire, called *Moilenlly*, hath a spring of clear water on the top of it.

The people living in the Vale (saith *Cambden*) are very healthful; their heads sound and firm; their eye-sight never dim, and their age very lasting and chearful.



The little Riveret called *Alen*, runs under ground once or twice.

Near the little Town *Moinglath*, is plenty of Lead.

In the west part of the shire where the ground is barren, they pare away the surface of the earth into turfs with a broad spade, and burn them, and lay the ashes of them upon those grounds, which enriches them much. This way of enriching Land was used anciently by the *Romans*, and spoken of both by *Virgil* and *Horace*.

In the year 1574, February the 26. were great Earthquakes, which did many people much hurt, both within doors, and without, in *York*, *Worcester*, *Hereford*, *Gloucester*, *Bristol*, and other places adjacent. This shaking of the earth made the Bell in the Shire-Hall of *Denbigh* to toll twice, but did no other harm at all thereabouts,



## Flintshire.

**T**He air of this shire is healthfull, without any Fogs or Fenny vapours, saving that sometimes there riseth from the Sea, and the River *Dee*, certain thick and smoky mists which yet hurt not at all; for the people here are very aged and healthfull. The air is colder here then in *Cheshire*, because it is encompassed with the Sea and the River, so that the Northwinds being carried long upon the waters blow the colder, whence it is, that snow lyes very long here upon the hills. The Country affordeth great plenty of Cattle, but they are but small.

Millstone is digged in this shire, as well as in *Anglesey*.

Towards *Dee*, an arm of the Sea, the fields bear in some places Barley, in others Wheat, but generally throughout Rye, with twenty fold increase, and better, (especially every first year, that they be new broken up, and sowed) and afterwards four or five crops together of Oats.

At the mouth of the River *Cluid* the valley on the land seemeth to be lower, and to lye under the Sea, and yet the water to the admiration of the beholders never overfloweth into the valley. *There are many things in the world that are not as they seem, besides Hypocrites.*

Near \

Near *Holy-well* in times past was a rich Mine of Silver.

Hard by *Kilken* is a little well, that at certain times ebbs, and flows.

In this shire is that excellent Well called Saint *Winifrids* Well, or *Holy-Well*, so famous for the strange cures of aches, and lameness, that it hath done. The water of it is extream cold; and the brook that flowes from it hath so plentiful and violent a stream, that it is presently able to drive a mill. The stones about it are as it were spotted with bloody spots, and there are many red stones in the bottome of it. The moss that grows on the sides of it, is of an exceeding sweet smell, and (they say) though some of it be given to every stranger that comes, yet it never wasteth.



## Yorkshire.

**Y**orkshire being a shire of a very large extent (the biggest in England) hath variety of air, and as great variety of soil, some barren, and some fertile.

In some parts of the Shire, viz. near *Shirburn*, are quarries of Stone, the stones whereof being newly hewen, and taken forth of the quarry, are very soft, but seasoned with wind and weather, of themselves become very hard and durable. And in other parts is a kind of Limestone, which being burnt serves to manure and enrich those lands that are cold and hilly.

About *Pomfret* and *Knareborough* grows great quantity of Liquorice.

About *Knaresh.* also is great store of yellow Marle, which it may be is a kindly earth for production of Liquorice, because of the same colour with it. But whether the like Marle be as plentiful about *Pomfret*, I cannot tell. So much indeed *Speed* saith, that great plenty of *Skirretwort* (or *Skirrets*) grow about *Pomfret*, but he saith nothing of the quality of the soile.

It is reported that at the suppression of the Abbies by *Henry* the eight, in a certain Chappell  
in

in *York* a Lamp was found burning in a Vault or Sepulchre under ground, wherein *Constantinus* the Emperour was supposed to have been buried. Which kind of Lamps *Lazius* means, when he saith that in old time they had a way to preserve light in Sepulchers by an artificiall resolving of gold into a liquid and fatty substance, which would continue burning for many ages together.

There are many iron Mines about *Sheffield*.

About the year of Christ 759. the Town of *Doncaster* was burnt by fire from heaven.

Some of the inhabitants about *Dickmarsh* and *Marshland* are of opinion that the land there is hollow, and hanging, and that as the waters rise, the land is also heaved up. And the like (saith mine Author) *Pomponius Mela* hath written of *Antrum* an Isle some where in *France*.

About *Brotherton* is a yellow kind of Marle found, which being cast upon fields, makes them bear good Corn for many years together. Querie, Whether the ground here (as about *Knaresborough*) would not be proper for the planting of *Liquorice*.

The River *Wherfe* is a mighty swift River, roaring, and sometimes driving the stones in it before it. Though this River have many waters fall into it, yet at *Tadcaster* Bridge it is in a manner dry at Midsummer; but in the Winter it is so deep, that the bridge is scarce able to receive so much water. It seems by the story that this River hath many great shoors into it, and that it is fed chiefly by land Springs, which run highest in Winter. Of the swiftness of Rivers we have spoken before.

At

At *Tadcaster* Limestone is digged, which is counted a very good and strong Lime.

The Abby of Fountains hath Lead Mines near it

Near *Burrow-Briggs* are certain Pyramids standing, which are supposed by some to have been made of a factitious stone compounded of pure sand, Lime, Vitriol, and some unctuous matter. See before, what we have said touching the *Stonehenge* upon *Salisbury* plain.

Under *Knareborough* is a Well called *Dropping-well*, in which the waters Spring not out of the veins of the earth, but distill from the Rocks that hang over it. This water turns wood into stone; for wood put into it will shortly after be covered over with a stony bark, and at length become stone, as hath been often tryed, saith *Speed*.

*Alewinus* in an Epistle of his to *Egelfred* King of *Northumberland* speaks of the raining of blood on *St. Peters* Church at *York* even in a fair day, which descended in a very violent manner from the top of the roof of the Church; And thereupon breaks forth into these words, May it not be thought, that blood is coming upon the land from the North parts? And not long after (to fulfil his prediction) the *Danes* invaded *England*, and among other their outrages, burnt the City of *York*.

At *Giggleswick* a mile from *Settle* (and a way-bit) are small Springs not distant from one another a quoyts cast, the middlemost of which at every quarter of an hour ebbs and flows about the height of a quarter of a yard, when it is highest; and

and at the ebbe falls so low, that it is not an inch deep with water.

The little River *Derwent* increased by rain, doth often overflow its banks. It seems there are great shoots into it, and great windings in it.

The Rivers *Humber* and *Ouse* have a very forcible current, and flow with a great noise, being dangerous for those, that sail therein.

Great store of *Goats* about *Sureby*; And upon the hills of this Shire toward *Lancashire* is the like for *Goats* and *Deer*.

Near *Flamborough Head* (saith *Cambden*) it is reported, that there are certain waters called *Vipseys*, which flow every other year out of blind Springs, and run with a very violent stream through the low Land, into the Sea. They rise (they say) from many Springs meeting together within the ground, which makes their stream so forcible on a sudden. When they are dry, it is a good sign; but when they break out, they say it is a certain sign of dearth to follow. Yet when I travelled here; (saith he) I could hear nothing of these Springs, although I enquired very earnestly after them.

*Scarborough* Castle hath a little Well of fresh water springing out of a Rock,

*Scarborough* is the chief place for catching of *Herrings* at time of the year. In our great grandfathers days (saith *Cambden*) the *Herrings* kept altogether about the coast of *Norway*, but now in our times they swim every year round about *Britain*, by shoale in huge numbers. About Midsummer they shoale out of the deep and vast Northern Seas

Seas to the coasts of *Scotland*, at which time they are at the fattest. From thence they com to the East coast of *England*, and from the middle of *August* to *November* is the best taking them between *Scarborough* and the *Thames* mouth. Afterwards by some great storme they are carried into the *British* Sea, and there till *Christmas* are caught by Fishermen in their nets. From hence dividing themselves, and swimming along both sides of *Ireland*, after they have coasted round about *Britain*, they take their course into the North Seas again, as their home; and there they rest till *June*, where after they have cast their spawn, and gotten a young fry, they return again, as before. To this doth that of *St. Ambrose* agree, where he saith, that Fishes in infinite numbers swim together, and make towards the blasts of the North wind, and by a certain instinct of nature hasten into the Sea of the North parts; And thus (saith he) they swim through *Propontis* into *Pontus Euxinus*.

At *Whitbay* are Serpents (or snakes) of stone found. Query whether the soile be such thereabout, as I have described it about *Alderley* in *Glostershire*; as also whether there be any difference in the shape, colour, or bigness of the one or the other.

Wild Geese flying over certain fields near *Whitbay* in the Winter time to pools and Rivers that are not frozen, in the South parts, suddenly fall to the ground, from a secret antipathy, as is thought.

Upon the shore by *Moulgrave* Castle is found *Feat*. It grows among the Cliffs and Rocks, where they



they gape asunder. Before it be polished, it is of a reddish rusty colour, but after it is of an excellent black as every one knows. It is said by some of the Ancients; that *Jeat* put into water, will take fire and burn; and that oyl quencheth it: but experience tells us it is not so.

At *Skengrave* a little Village in *Cleveland*, in the Northriding of the shire, about the year 1535. a Triton or Manfish was taken, as it is reported, that for certain days together fed upon raw fish, but espying his opportunity he got away to Sea again, and was seen no more.

Upon this shore by *Skengrave*; whensoever it is calme, and the Sea (as it were) leuell, there is heard many times on a sudden an horrible and fearfull groaning, as it were a great way off, at which time the fishermen dare not lanch out into the deep.

Near unto *Hunt-cliffe* upon the same shore (and not far from the shore) there appear certain Rocks, about which the Seal-fishes meet together to sleep and sun themselves. And upon that Rock that is next the shore, one of the Seals lyes to keep Centinell; and as any man approacheth, he either throws down a big stone, or tumble himselfe into the water with a great noise, as a signall to the rest to awake, and get into the water. They are not afraid of women, but onely of men, and therefore they that will catch them, put on womens apparell. When they are chased by men, if they be destitute of water, they will with their hinder feet sling backward a cloud of sand and gravell in the faces and eyes of their pursuers; Yea, and

many

many times drive them away, making them weary of their design by this means.

Upon the same shore are found stones, some yellow, some reddish, some with a rough cast crust over them of a Salt matter, which by their smell and taste make shew of Copperas, Nitre and Brimstone. Here are also great store of Marcasites in colour resembling brass.

At *Humby Nab* at the roots of the craggy Rocks, that are there upon the shore, there lye stones scattering here and there, of diverse bignesses, so artificially (and yet naturally) round, that one would think they had been turned for shot for great Ordnance. In which, if you break them, you shall find stony Serpents wrapped round (that is, just in the forme of the *Aderley* and *Keynsham* snakes) but most of them are headless. The way to break them is by heating them red-hot in the fire, and then quenching them in cold water; for by that means they will fall asunder of themselves. These stones (if that which I have be of this sort, and he that gave it me assured me it was) are within of a pellucid whitish matter like Alabaster, though not so white, and are on the out side covered over with a coat so absolutely like brass, that I think they cannot be distinguished. The outward form of them is just like the *Glocestershire* stones, with a spine and ribbs. The stone that I have is about an inch in Diameter, but I have seen two or three more, that were near two inches in Diameter. I have another stone somewhat like this I speak of, but it is not above a Barley-corn in Diameter. It hath a brassy coat, and is

wreathed snake-like, as the other: But it is not pellucid within, nor so light coloured; and withall it hath no Spine, but instead of it four rows of prickles very curiously wrought; and it is much bigger toward the head, and lesser at the taile, then the other. Whether it were found at the same place with the other I know not, neither did the giver tell me. There is a place in Provence in France, near the mouth of the Rhosne, called the Stone field, where several acres are covered with such stones exactly round, (& the like is in the Island Cuba in America) but whether there be Serpents in them or no, I never heard nor read.

Gisburgh is much commended for a healthfull place, far exceeding Puteoli in Italy. The land about it is very fertile, and beareth flowers a great part of the year, and is withall extraordinary full of veins of metall, and Alume; earth of sundry colours, but especially of Ochre and Murray; As also of Iron, out of which (saith my Author *Cambden*) they have begun to try very good Alume and Coperas. These veins of earth Sir Thomas Chaloner, Prince Henry his Tutor, first discovered, by observing, that the leaves of the trees were of a more weak green colour here, then elsewhere; that the Oaks had their roots spreading broad, but very ebbe (or shallow) within the earth, which had much strength, but small store of sap; and that the earth standing upon clay, and being of diverse colours; whitish, yellowish, and blew, was never frozen; and in a clear night glittered in the paths like glass.

Almost at the top of Roseberry-topping (a very high

high hill hard by *Gilsburgh* there is a Spring of water, coming out of a huge Rock, medicinable for sore eyes. *It is likely to be an oily water.*

When *Roseberry*-topping hath a cloudy cap on, there commonly follows rain. Whence this rime-ing Proverb is very frequent with the people :

*When Roseberry-topping wears a Cap,*

*Let Cleaveland then beware a clap.*

The River *Recall* hides it self under ground near *Elmesly* in this Riding.

Abundance of Springs rise together at *Hinder-skill* a little Castle, near *Sherry-Hutton* Castle.

The hills in *Richmondshire* are well stored with Lead, Copper, and Pit-Coals. And on the tops of these hills stones have been found like Sea-winkles, Cockles, and other fish. Which (saith *Cambden*) are either naturall, or else are the reliques of *Noahs* flood petrified. *Orosius* speaks as much of Oysters of stone found upon hills far from the Sea, which have been eaten in hollow with the water. In all likelyhood these stone-fishes are of the same kind with ours in *Glocestershire*.

Plenty of Lead-stones in *Wentfedale*.

The River *Ure* is full of Orefishes; but the breed was brought thither out of the South parts of England by Sir *Christopher Medcalse*. It may be from *Newbury* in *Barkeshire*, where there are the like plenty.

The River *Swale* is a very swift River.

*Mask* in this shire is full of Lead Ore.

There is a place in this shire called *St. Wilfrids Needle*, being a passage so narrow, that one of a

mean bulk can but just creep through it. The story goes of it, that it easily lets chaste women through, but holds fast those, that have plaid false. However the thing may seem a Fable at first sight, yet if the women, that have plaid false, be with child, it may be true without wonder.

### *The Bishoprick of Durbam.*

**T**He air of this County is sharp and piercing, and would be more, but that the vapours of the Sea do help to dissolve the ice and snow. The Eastern part of it is the richest, the South is moorish, and the West all Rocky without grass or grain, onely it feeds Cattle, and is well stored with Coal, as indeed the whole County is, being the greatest in England for great Coals. And the Coals grow so near the surface of the earth, that the Cart wheels turn them up in the trod-ways.

In the West part of this County are Iron Mines. Query, whether all Mines be not in a hilly Country.

The East part of the County yields a great plenty of Coale, and yet where it hath plenty of it, it is likewise fruitfull and good land.

At *Egleston* is a Marble quarry.

Near *Darlington*, whose waters are warm (hot saith

saith *Cambden*) and by an Antiperistasis, or reverberation of the cold air ) are three pits wonderfull deep, called Hell kettles. These are thought to come of an earthquake, that happened Anno 1179. For on Christmas day ( say our Chronicles ) at *Oxenhall* ( which is this place ) the ground heaved up aloft like a Tower, and so continued all that day as it were immovable till evening, and then fell in with a very horrible noise, and the earth swallowed it up, and made in the same place three deep pits.

It is reported that Bishop *Trunfall* put a Goose into one of those pits, having first given her a mark, and the same Goose was found in the River *Tees*, so that it seems these Kettles have passages under ground.

Within the River *Weere* at *Butterby* near *Durham*, in Summer time there issues a salt reddish water, from the sides of certain stones at the ebbe & low water, which with the Sun waxes white, & growing thick becoms a salt, which the people thereabouts alwayes use. *Cambden* saith further, that if you pour water upon these stones, and temper it a little with them, it will suck in a saltish quality.

N<sup>o</sup> 3

Lan-



## Lancashire.

**T**He air of this County is thin and piercing, not troubled with gross mists or fogs. And the people are very comly, healthfull and long lived, and not subject to strange diseases. The soile is not very fruitfull, yet it breeds great number of Cattle, that are of huge proportion, and have goodly heads and large spread horns. Here is also fish and fowle on the Sea coasts in good plenty, and in other places of the shire the like store of Coals, and a competent increase of flax. Where the ground is plain, it is good for wheat, and barley; that which lyes at the bottome of hills is better for oats.

Along the Sea side in many places lye heaps of Sand, upon which the people pour water till it contract a saltish humour from the sand; and thus they boile with turfs, till it become white salt.

This shire in divers places suffereth much by the flowing fury of the Sea, as in *Fourness*, much of which the Sea hath eaten away by little and little. The cause is plain. For who can expect less, where a shore full of quicksands (as this is) is washed, and beaten upon by a Sea, hardly ever quiet, such

as

as every one knows the Irish Sea is, unless it be sometimes in Summer.

Not far from Fountains Felles lyes the greatest standing Water of England, called Winander Mere, which is wonderfull deep, and ten miles over, and all paved (as it were) in the bottome. There are many such places in England, that are naturally paved. When I went to Keynsham (by Bristol) to search for the snake-stones, there I found the Lane (where they are) as it were all paved with broad hard stones, and the snakes lying upon the middle of the surface of the stones. We have also in some places of Kent such naturall pavements; And such I take stone-streets by Hitherto be, if it were not a work of the Romans.

This Winander Mere breeds a kind of fish called a Char, which is no where else to be found.

The Mosses in this shire are very unwholesome places to live in. If the upper coat of this mossie earth be pared away, it yields fat turfs for fuel, and sometimes trees, that have lien long under ground as it is thought, unless they grew there, which is unlikely. In diverse places also these mosses underneath afford abundance of Marle to enrich land with.

On the banks of the River Irwell is a kind of reddish stone.

About Manchester are quarries of very good stone.

By Chatmoss in this shire is a low mossie ground, very large, a great part of which (saith Cambden) not long ago, the Brooks swelling high, carried quite away with them, whereby the Rivers



were corrupted, and a number of trech fish perished. In which place now lyes a low vale watered with a little Brook, where trees have been digged up, lying along, which are supposed, by some to have come thus: The channels of the Brooks being not scoured, the Brooks have risen, and made all the land moorish, that lay lower then others. Whereby the roots of the trees being loosened by reason of the bogginess of the ground, or by the water finding a passage under ground, the trees have either by their own weight, or by some storm being blown down, and so sunk into that soft earth, and been swallowed up. For it is observable, that trees are no where digged out of the earth, but where the earth is boggy; And even upon hills, such midorish and moist grounds are commonly found. The wood of these trees burns very bright and clear like northwood (which perhaps is by reason of the Bimmerous earth, in which they have been so long) so that some think them to be Firre Trees, but it is not so saith *Cambden*. Such mighty trees are often found in *Holland*, which are thought to be undermined by the waves working into the shire, or by winds driven forward, and brought to those lower places, where they settled and sunk. But *Querie* (saith *Cambden*) whether they be not subterraneous Trees, growing under ground, as well as plants, and other creatures.

At *Ferneby* the people use Turfs for fire and candle both. And when they dig them, they find under them a certain dead & blackish water, upon which swims a kind of fat oily matter, and in it there

there are little fishes, which the diggers take. And just in the same manner (saith *Cambden*) fishes are digged out of the earth at *Heraclea* and *Tio* in *Pontus*. But that which is much stranger, is, that in *Paphlagonia* many, and those very good fishes are gotten by digging in places nothing waterish; but (saith he) this is a secret in nature.

On the very top of *Pendle-hill* grows a peculiar plant, called *Cloudeberry*, as though it came out of the clouds. This hill (saith *Cambden*) lately did the country much harm near it, by reason of an extraordinary deal of water gushing out of it. It is also famous for an infallible signe of rain, whensoever the top of it is covered with a mist.

There are three great hills here, not far distant asunder, seeming to be as high, as the clouds, which are *Ingleborough*, *Penignt*, and this *Prudlan*.

In the River *Lune* near *Cockersand Abbey* is great store of *Salmon*; That fish delighting, and thriving best in shallow, sandy, and clear Rivers.



## Cumberland.

**T**HIS County (like the rest of the rough Northern Countries) hath sharp piercing are which would be worse, if the high Hills in the North did not break of the storms and falling Snow. The soil is fertile for the most part, both for Corn and Cattel; and the Maritime places are well furnished with Fish and Fowl, and the Rivers breed a kind of Musck that beareth Pearl. And Speed tells us, that in the mouth of the River *Fes*, as they lye gaping and sucking in the dew that falls, the people gather them, and sel them.

In this County are many Mines of Copper, especially at *Keswick*, and *Newland*, where likewise the Black-Lead is found. Formerly there were Veins of Gold and Silver in the Copper-Mines about *Newland*.

At *Salkelds* upon the River *Eden*, is a Trophée of Victory, called by the Countrey people, *Long Meg and her Daughters*. They are 77 stones, each of them ten foot high above ground, and one amongst the rest is fifteen foot high.

*Skiddaw-Hill* riseth up with two mighty high Heads, (like *Parnassus*) and beholds *Scruffel Hill*  
in

in *Annandale*, within *Scotland*: And according as mists rise or fall upon these heads, the people thereby prognosticate of the change of weather, singing this Rime:

*If Skiddaw have a Cap,  
Scruffel wots full well of that.*

There are two other exceeding high Hills in this shire, called *Lawvelling*, and *Castland*.

The sea (as is before said) hath eaten a great part of the Land away, upon the shores of these Western shires. There are on the shore of this shire Trees discovered sometimes by the Wind at low water, which are else covered over with Sand. And it is reported by the people dwelling thereabouts, that they dig up trees without boughs, out of the ground in the mossie places of the shire, and that by the direction of the dew in Summer, for they observe, that the dew never stands upon that ground under which they lye.

The earth and stones at *Pemrith* are of a reddish colour.

Some Empirick Chirurgions of *Scotland* take their journey to the *Picts Wall* every year, in the beginning of Summer, to gather vulnerary Plants, which they say grow plentifully there, and are very effectual, being sown and planted by the *Romans* for Chirurgical uses.



## Northumberland.

**T**He air of this shire also is sharp and piercing of itself; but the German Ocean doth somewhat abate the edge of it, and helps to dissolve the Ice and Snow. The soil is rough, hard, and barren, and it should seem the inhabitants are long lived; for one Mr. Macklaine a Scottish man, Parson of Lesbury, (who died about the year 1659.) did in the year 1657. (two years before) renew his youth; so that (though for 40. years before he could not read without Spectacles, being 71.6. years of age.) he would then read the smallest print without them. He had his hair, which before he had lost, came again like a child's, &c. Which puts me in mind of an aged Dean, who had the like renovation of age, and when he dyed, he had this Epitaph bestowed by some barbarous pen upon his Tomb:

*Hic jacet edentulus, Canus, atq; Decanus;  
Rursum dentescit, nigrescit, & hic requiescit.*

There are Hills hard by North Tine so Boggy, and standing with Water on the top, that no Horseman is able to ride over them. And yet there are great heaps of stones cast up together upon them, which it may be, is the mark of some victory.

By

*The Natural Rarities of Northumb.* 173

By Bywell Cattle is great store of Salmon: As indeed there is in most of the Rivers in the North of England, and in Scotland.

Coquet Isle hath a Vein of Sea-Cole in it.

*The Isle of MAN.*

Hath cold and sharp air: It yeilds much Hemp and Flax. The Cattel and Sheepe are smaller then ours in England, being much like those in Ireland, which are but small neither, nor have their Cattel so fair a head as ours.

Many Trees are found and digged out of the earth in this Island: And they have here a clammy turf, which they burn for their fuel.

In the Calf of *Man* are abundance of *Puffins*, as also *Bernacles*, which the people there say, are bred of rotten wood.

The soil of the *Isle of Man* (saith *H. Lloyd*) is reasonable fertile, both for Corn and Grass, and yeilds good plenty of Barley, Wheat and Rye, but especially of Oats, and feeds great store of Cattel and Sheep; yet the Land is more waste and barren then that of *Anglesey*, and the people that are born and bred here, are weaker, and less fit for the Wars.

West-



## *Westmorland.*

**T**He air here is sharp and piercing, not subject to gross fogs and vapours, by reason of which, the people are free from strange and infectious Diseases, being very healthful; and living generally to great ages. The soil is moorish and barren for the most part, yet the Southern part is not so bad as the rest.

Near the River Loder, is a Spring that ebbs and flows many times in a day: And in the same place there are huge stones like Pyramids (some of them are nine foot high, and fourteen foot thick) pitched directly in a row for a mile together.

In the River Can, near Kendale, are two Cataracts, or Water-falls, where the waters descend with a great fall, and mighty noise. And when that which standeth North from the Neighbour, living between them, sounds clearer and louder than the other, they certainly look for fair weather to follow; but when that on the south side doth so, they expect fogs and showers of rain.

By Kirkby Lonsdale are many deep and hollow places like Caves.

In ancient time the Pearl-bearing Muskles are found upon this shore, which conceive by the dew which they suck in; and they are to be found at this day both here, & in the rivers of Cumberland.

*Cumber.*



## Scotland.

THE air of this Kingdom hath its variety according to the scituation of several places and parts of it; but generally it is healthful, because cold. The Soil in the High-lands is very poor and barren generally, but in the low lands it is good, and beareth excellent Oats, much ranker then ours in *England*. The people are strong of body, and of good proportion. Their Cattel are but small. Their best Nags are bred about *Galloway*. For *Bernacles*, or *Soland-Geese*, they have so infinite a number of them, that they even darken the Suns sight. These Geese are most rife about the *Basse*, an Island at the mouth of the *Frith*, going up to *Edenburgh*; and hither they bring an incredible number of fishes, and withal, such an abundance of sticks, and little twigs to build their nests, that the people are very plentifully provided of fewel, who also make a great gain of their Feathers and Oil. There hath been great dispute among the Learned, about the generation of these Geese, some holding that they were bred of the leaves of the *Bernacle Tree* falling into the Waters others that they were bred of moist rotten Wood lying in the Waters, but it is since found, that they come of an Egg, and are hatched as all other Geese are.

*Lough-*



*Lough-Rian* is full of Herrings and Stone-fishes  
saith *Cambden*.

Near the head of the River *Clud* in *Cramford Moor*, in wild, waste places, certain Husbandmen of the Countrey after great store of violent rain, happened to find small pieces like scrapings of Gold, which gave them hopes of finding a Mine of Gold. Indeed (saith *Cambden*) there is Azure gotten out every day without any labour at all. Thus saith *Cambden*, *Ortelius* tells us, That in *Drisdale* in *Scotland* is a Mine of Gold, in which also is found that which they commonly call *Lazure*. It may be these are but two diverse stories of one and the same thing.

There is a Well near *Edenburgh* (saith *Speed*) that fleteth with *Bitumen*: There is a Spring about two miles from *Edenbrough* (saith *Ortelius*) on the top of the Water whereof, drops of Oil continually, swim, so as if you take none from it, there wil be never the more, and if you take any from thence, there wil be never the less: Which Oil is good for the roughness of the skin. Likely the same thing diversly related.

In *Galloway* (saith *Ortelius*) is a Lake called *Myrtoun*, part of whose Waters freezes in the Winter, as other Waters do; but the other part was never known to be frozen in the greatest Frost that ever were.

In *Loughabre* are Iron-Mines, saith *Cambden*. And somewhere in *Scotland* *Ortelius* saith there are Lead-Mines.

In the Province of *Coile* (saith *Ortelius*) about ten Miles from *Aire*, is a stone hardly twelve foot

foot high, and 33. cubits thick, called the *Deaf Rock*, on the one side of which, though you make never so great a noise, nay if you shoot off a piece of Ordinance, it shall hardly be heard on the other side, except you be a good way off from it, and then the sound may easily be perceived.

In *Bughan* Rats are never seen: And if any be brought in thither, they will not live:

This Country of *Bughan* yeilds the finest Wool in all *Scotland*: And *Lorn* the best barley.

The Rivers of the coast of *Bughan* are wel stored with *Salmon*, and yet they never enter into the River *Ratra*.

On the banks of this River *Ratra*, in *Bughan*, is a Cave near unto *Stanys Castle*, in which is Water, which dropping out of a natural Vault, presently turneth into Pyramidal stones, of a middle nature, between ice and hard stone. It is brittle and crumbling, and neyer cometh to the hardness of Marble: And if the Cave were not rid of these stones, as they fall, the whole Cave would shortly be filled.

The Water of the River *Nessa*, and of the *Lough-Nessa*, is alwayes warm, and never freezeth.

The *Lough-Lomund* is about 20. or 24. miles long, and eight miles broad. It is wel stored with fish, and particularly with one kind of fish, very wholesome and good, called a *Pollac*, which is no where else to be found. *Necham* saith, that this *Lough* turneth sticks into stones. In this *Lough* (saith *Ortelius*) are thirty Islands, where-

of divers have Villages inhabited, and Churches; and one of them, which is very good for feeding of Cattel, stores up and down in the Lake, as it is carried by the Wind: Not unlike those Islands reported by *Pliny*, to be in the Lake *Hadimon*, which are full of Grass, and covered over with rushes and reeds, and swim up and down in the Lake. There are the like also near *St. Omars* by *Calais*. In the *Lough Lomund* also are fishes without finns. Further, it is the nature of this *Lough* to rage, and rise in waves most of all in the fairest and calmest weather, so that boats are often cast away.

The River *Douglasse* hath a black greenish Water.

In the Wood *Caledonia* in old time, were white Bulls, wild, and very fierce, whose manes were like Lyons, thick and curled: And so hateful they were to mankind, that they abhorred whatsoever was handled, or breathed upon by men. And *Martial* and *Plutarch* speak of bears here,

In *Sutherland* (saith *Cambden*) there are whole Hills of white Marble.

Towards the North of *Scotland* (saith *Speed*) there be Mountains all of *Alabaster*, and some all of *Marble*.

*Fifolis* well stored with Pit-Coals; and the shores of it are as largely stored with Oysters, and other Shel-fish.

In the Rivers *Dee* and *Done* is great store of *Salmon*, and a shel-fish called the *Horse-Muske*, in which there grow Pearls, as *Orient* as the best.

The

The Countrey of *Aibole* is infamous for witches, and wicked women.

Near *Falkirk* (saith *Lythgow*) remain the ruines and marks of a Town, &c. swallowed up into the Earth by an Earth-quake, and the void place is filled with water.

It is credibly reported (saith *Ortelius*) that in *Argile* there is a kind of stone to be found, which if it be covered but a while with straw or flax, it wil set it on fire.

The same Author saith, That in the Countrey of *Caith* are very great Oxen, whose flesh is very tender, and of a very pleasant and delicate taste, and the fat never waxes hard, but is thin, like liquid Oyle; and that the sea also on this coast affords great store of Oysters, Cockles, Congers, Herrings (at time of year; &c. Also he saith, That

At the mouth of the River *Frish*, in the main Sea, is a very high Rock, out of whose top a spring of fresh water runs abundantly.

The snow lies all the year long, upon the hills in *Ross*.

A huge piece of Amber (saith *Cambden*) as big as an Horse, was not long since cast upon the shore of *Bughan*. Note that this shore lies almost over-against the mouth of the *Baltick* sea, in which sea upon the shores of *Prussia* and *Pomerland*, both Jeat and Amber are often found, as *Geographers* generally assure us. *Scrappin*; and the *Modern Philosophers* say, that Amber is a clammy Bituminous Earth, lying under the sea, and by the sea-side, of which tempests cast part upon

on the shore, and fishes devour the rest.

Near a place called *Disert in Fife*, which stands by the sea side, is a Heath, where there is great plenty of an Earthy Bitumen, and it partly burneth.

In the Countrey of *Argile* (saith *Cambden*) at this day there are Kine and red Deer ranging wild upon the hills.

In the Countrey of *Murray* is a Meer that breeds and maintains a great abundance of Swans, by the help of the herb, called *Olorina*, which grows very plentifully in it, saith *Cambden*.

The River of *Aberden* breeds great store of *Salmon*.

The Wool in *Galloway* (saith *Lithgow*) is nothing inferiour to that of *Biscay* in *Spain*: And the Mutton is as sweet as the Wool is fine.

Between the coast of *Cathnes*, and the Isle of *South Rannaldshaw* in *Orkney* (saith the same Author) is a dreadful Frith or Gulf, in the North west end of which, by reason of the meeting of several (he saith nine) contrary tides or Currents, is a Mael-stream, or great Whirl-pool, that whirleth ever about. And if any Ship, Boat, or Bark, come within the sphere of its activity, (as it may be called) they must quickly throw over some thing into it, as a barrèl, a piece of timber, or such like, or else the Vessel wil inevitably be swallowed up. Which the *Cathnes* and *Orkney* Mariners know very wel, and observe it as a constant custom to redeem themselves that way from danger.

The

The *HEBRIDES*.

In *Alize*, one of these Isles (saith *Ortelius*) is abundance of *Island* Geese: And the same Author saith, that another Isle of them is a fertile soil for Corn, and rich in Veins of Metal.

The *ORCADES*.

In these Isles grow no trees; yet the Land bears barley, and other grain, but no wheat at all: They breed no Serpent, nor any venomous beast; nor wibany such creature live, being brought into one of these Islands from other places. They have store of barley (saith *Hector Boethius*) and make much Ale; and are great drinkers; and yet you shall never see a drunken man, or a mad man, or a natural fool among them: And they live very long without the use of Physick.

In the Isle *Pomonia* is plenty of tin and lead.

The Hand of *Zeal* (saith *de la Motte le Vayer*) one of the Isles of *Schetland*, wil not endure any creature that is not bred and born there.

*Holy Island.*

The air of it is sickly, because it is both cold and foggy; the soil is rocky and barren.

*Fern*

*Parne-Island.*

This Isle hath a very sickly air, subject to the Dysentery (or bloody Flux) and other diseases by reason of the frequent fogs there. It is also much troubled with tempests of wind, storms of rain, and rage of the Sea. The soil is barren, and good for little. This Island, and Holy-Island yield good store of fish and fowle.

*Garnesey*

Hath a very fruitfull soile. This Island hath neither Toad, Snake, Adder, or any other venomous creature; but *Fersey* hath great plenty of them.

Among the Rocks in this Island is found the hard stone, called *Smyris*, which Glasiers use, and Goldsmiths and Lapidaries to cut their stones with.

The air of this Island is very healthful, not subject to any diseases, but agues in September; And the Island is as fertile. Their sheep have most of them 4 horns a piece, but a very fine and white Wooll; of which our *Fersey* (as we call it) is made.

Upon the coast of this Island in Summer time they catch excellent Conger and Lobster.

In *Fersey* they have no wood, but burn the Sea-weed (called *Fucus Marinus*) being dried at the fire which groweth plentifully on the Rocks there, and with the ashes of this fewell they manure their fields, and make them very fruitful.

*Alderny.*

Both the air and land of this Island are commended to be indifferent good. In this Island was once

once found ( as they say ) a Giants tooth as big as a mans fist, that was thought to be one of his Mortars or Grinders. But I believe it was rather an Elephant tooth.

### Advertisements to the Curious and Ingenious.

In the year 1653. I published a little Pamphlet ( or Almanack ) entitled, *Syzygiallicon Instauratum*, wherein I desired those that were Astronomically addicted to take notice of a little long black Cloud, lying cross the milky way, between the two Constellations of Cygnus and Cepheus, and neither increasing nor diminishing, nor moving from the place it first appeared in. I conceived then it was some new apparition, but finding it ever since in the same place where it was, and not perceiving it to alter in any respect, I began to think, that it hath been always there, and will be so to the end; And that, though it be obvious to every vulgar eye, yet it might lye hid till our age, through the inobvertency of the greater part of Astronomers. Besides this,

There is another thing, which I must needs recommend to the observation of Mathematicall men. Which is, that in February, and for a little before, and a little after that month ( as I have observed severall years together ) about six in the evening, when the Twilight hath almost deserted the Horizon, you shal see a plainly discernable way of the Twilight striking up toward the Pleiades or seven Starrs, and seeming almost to touch them. It is to be observed any clear night, but it is best illuc nocte. There is no such way to be observed



served at any other time of the year, (that I can perceive) nor any other way at that time to be perceived darting up elsewhere. And I believe it hath been, and will be constantly visible at that time of the year. But what the cause of it in nature should be, I cannot yet imagine, but leave it to further enquiry.

There have been lately three sorts of Telescopes invented by this Author, of two whereof trial hath been made, by M. Reeves living over-against the foot and leg in Long-Acre: And the Author makes no doubt at all of the third.

At the said M. Richard Reeves are to be had all sorts of Telescopes, and all other sorts of Optick glasses,

FINIS.

### ERRATA.

In the Title over the pages for Britania, read Britannia, page 7. line ult. for Veculam read Verulam, p. 20. l. 26. for Sprayes r. Osprayes, p. 25. 11. for will live and fith thrive in, r. fith will live and thrive in, p. 36 l. 9. been r. being, p. 45. l. 4. after Lockington adde (and) p. 55. l. 15, & 17. death r. dearth, l. 18 usual r. unusual, p. 55 l. 1. r. Hippocrates, l. 6. using r. rising, l. 8. prafage r. provc, p. 56. l. 32. seeming r. seems, p. 63. l. 15. breath r. breadth, p. 98. l. 5. sequi r. sesqui, p. 101. l. 13. & 102. l. 9. Oxford r. Orford.

